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Syria's al-Shar' Expresses Support for Yemeni Unity

JN3005183894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 May 94

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam Hijab from Cairo]

[Text] [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has underlined the importance of the subjects which the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement will discuss in their conference that will start tomorrow.

Answering reporters' questions on arrival at Cairo International Airport this afternoon to lead the Syrian delegation to the 11th conference of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement, al-Shar' said there are international and regional issues, as well as issues of concern to our Arab region. These include political and economic issues, he said.

The foreign minister added: One important subject at the top of the conference agenda is the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process and its developments, as well as our assessment of that process and the Israeli aggressive practices and intransigent positions.

Asked if there has been any progress in the subject of peace with Israel on the Syrian track, the foreign minister stressed that there is no progress thus far. He explained that the reason for that is Israel's attempt to evade the foundations of the peace process and the requirements for peace. Israel, he added, also attempts to gain time, thinking that this will be to its advantage.

Al-Shar' said: We believe this opportunity should not be missed. Israel will be the biggest loser if this opportunity is missed.

Asked if Syria supports secession in Yemen, the foreign minister said: We do not support the secession of any Arab territory from an Arab state.

He added: We are pained by what is happening in Yemen, and what is happening should not have happened.

Al-Shar' stressed that Syria supports Yemen's unity and a quick end to the fighting there. He said the end of fighting should coincide with a concern for preserving the Yemeni unity.

Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Movement Meet

Mubarak Delivers Address

NC3105140794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0704 GMT 31 May 94

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Non-Aligned Movement Conference in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Ministers, delegation heads, guests, and brothers and sisters here in Cairo, which is proud of having witnessed the first phase of the Nonaligned Movement's establishment and having experienced the movement's glory, the Egyptian nation receives you with welcome and appreciation. The nation voices its confidence in the ability of this pioneering movement to revitalize its resources and mobilize its potential to confront the growing challenges and changing circumstances to serve humane causes and perpetuate the noble values and principles that the movement has advocated worldwide.

The emergence of the movement in the early 1960's was an inspired response to the world situation to ward off dangers that faced humanity for the first time. It also emerged to fulfill the aspirations of many nations for an international community dominated by peace, safety, and justice and free from fear and oppression. Thus the movement was able to express the ideals and principles that our struggling nations have believed in and to which they have clung in their policies and actions and to embody the great hopes and concepts that have inspired millions of people everywhere to achieve a better future for mankind.

The great consciousness of our nations and their awareness of their mission in a world full of danger and challenges combined with the piercing and sound vision of the first generation of the founding leaders. The movement was established on firm bases and managed to achieve colossal accomplishments that cannot be erased or eroded by the passage of time. The movement undoubtedly contributed to forming the new world order, therefore it remains qualified to participate in formulating a collective concept for the future.

The modern world will testify to the movement's success during its more than 30 years of positive work. It has succeeded in transforming newly independent developing nations into a unique entity with influence in world politics, not only because of its numerical or material power but because of its constant support for justice and equality.

The modern world will testify that the movement struggled, along with other countries that shared its belief in peace and principles, to defend each nation's rights to eliminate colonialism and foreign hegemony and destroy all forms of discrimination and oppression everywhere to guarantee the creation of an international community on sound bases that are able to face danger and challenges.

Hence, the movement opened new horizons for nations to cooperate in a brotherly way and to learn how to coexist without hegemony and exploitation in a mutual sense of the unity of interest and fate so that every state can mobilize its resources and energy for development and progress. Thus, peace and construction triumphs over war and destruction, logic overwhelms conflict and dispute, right dominates over force, the value of justice precedes the de facto method, and resources can be used to set up farms and factories instead of stockpiling weapons and tools of destruction.

These have been historic accomplishments. It would be wrong for anyone to think they were achieved easily and that the road toward them was strewn with roses and full of good intentions. Rather, they were achieved with strenuous work, bitter sacrifices, insistence on reaching the goals, and with the ability to maintain a clear vision amidst various storms. Trust and historic responsibility require us all to realize that this great heritage alone is no longer enough to deal with our age's requirements.

The tenets, theories, regimes, and relations of the world around us have changed as our communities themselves have changed from within. In the past, our causes revolved around liberating the homelands, but today they focus on liberating man in all fields and spheres. In the past, our hopes were for independence, but today the hopes are for security and prosperity. In the past, we were less in number and strength but today we are greater in population, although we are burdened with problems and crises.

Our only option is to use our strength to confront the new reality with an effective and competent body that is adequate to achieve the new objectives in this changeable world.

The common ground joining us has not disappeared but its form and substance have changed. Consequently, we urgently need to make a continuous and comprehensive revision of the movement's progress. We must not revise its principles, concepts, and foundations but must reconsider our methods of action, ways of thinking, and the way we deal with a new and different world order.

What we have called for has become an inevitable reality so that we could maintain the movement's credibility, emphasize its legitimate presence, and guarantee its effectiveness in and influence on the world around us. Frankly speaking, unless we accept this essential point and move with an open and enlightened mind and strength to adapt to new circumstances, we will be lending credibility to those who claim that the movement has become form without substance.

Stagnation represents the road toward extinction. But progress and development are the laws of life, or rather the definite way toward survival and development. Therefore, we must free our supreme ideals from mere empty slogans or expressions that are impotent in reflecting reality and facts.

Perhaps the changes in the world are moving faster than the Nonaligned Movement itself. It is possible that some of its foundations have become a part of past history. But this does not mean that the movement has lost its role or could perhaps lose its way and distort its vision. It means that the movement must now deal with the new facts with objectivity, a positive approach, and a method based on reality and facts.

The world situation that has prevailed over the past era was the division of countries into Western and Eastern blocs. But the new situation is represented by two poles, the north and south. But this situation must exist in an atmosphere in which cooperation, not estrangement; and unity, not fighting; should prevail. It is important that the Nonaligned Movement's spirit should continue to bear the fruit of its efforts. After all the successive experiences we have passed through, we stress that every member state and people are freely entitled to pursue the way of life they desire and the mode of development that fits their circumstances.

Concerning the foreign policy sphere, the essence of the nonaligned method is for every member country to pursue a foreign policy harmonious with its independence, its free will, and its right to make its own decisions in the framework of an international order based on the principles of justice and legality, the rule of law, and commitment to international charters, notably the UN Charter.

The essence of nonalignment is, by its very nature, an enlightened philosophy based on a give-and-take attitude and on continuous interaction that enriches international thinking and seeks the advancement of individual nations at every historical stage in line with these nations' particular circumstances.

Brothers and sisters, perhaps you will agree with me that the Nonaligned Movement's response to the new international challenges must be in the following two indispensable ways. First, the movement must be the representative of the interests of the entire developing world. It must draw up the broad outlines of the developing world's progress in coordination with the group we call the Group of 77. We must always remember that the Nonaligned Movement never sought to promote just the interests of its own members but earnestly sought to promote the interests of all nations, regardless of those nations' diverse policies, experiences, and stages of development. Since its establishment, the Nonaligned Movement has understood the concept of a united human destiny. It has committed itself to seeking united human goals by various methods and through numerous organizations.

The movement's diversity is a source of enrichment and strength, not weakness. This enrichment must be increased through free, creative relations.

The second thing the Nonaligned Movement needs is to enhance its ability to begin a real dialogue with all international parties. It must be able to address the world in a language the world can understand. This dialogue must cover all economic, political, and cultural international issues. If the dialogue is limited to a few countries, even if they are large and populous, it will be futile. All the world's countries must be effective partners in the dialogue and must influence its course. This is because we are seeking to reach the haven of safety together, leaving no country to fall into an abyss of backwardness and poverty.

Needless to say, the new pattern of world economic ties based on groupings, free trade, and the market economy dictates that everyone handle this new situation with new methods and concepts. The basis of this concept is openness not seclusion, mutual dependence not self-reliance, which is no longer useful in a world that only has room for people who are economically sound, politically strong, socially secure, and regionally and domestically stable.

This new situation I am talking about has created methods and bases for economic dealings among all the world's countries—north and south—as happened recently in the context of a system determined by the new GATT [General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs] and the new organization for world trade [not further specified]. As developing nations, we have to deal with this situation by achieving a balance in interests between the developed and developing nations and maintaining the political and social stability necessary for economic development.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us agree at this meeting on a new, clear method for the movement to guide our actions and intentions and to consolidate the benefits we have gained through our long strife, so that we will not waste our past but will take advantage of our present and look forward to our future. We must carefully and soundly scrutinize world changes to discover what is viable and what is temporary. This is the way to deal with these developments, so that we can help our movement to adjust and adapt, because adjustment and adaptation are two elements necessary to create a driving force that will have an effect on the shape of the future.

We do not want the movement to turn into a grouping reliant on negativity fearful of the emergence of a new world order. Our true need is for participation through a joint concept and joint action to contribute to devising the features of this order. We should take the best of the past system, add to it our current experience, and enhance it with strong guarantees for the sake of the future.

I believe that such an initiative by the movement to participate in charting the new world order is the surest guarantee of establishing this order on bases of equality, justice, respect for each nations' rights, honoring state sovereignty and independence, nonintervention in their internal affairs, and commitment to the responsibilities and duties stipulated in international charters and documents.

The Nonaligned Movement, with the solidarity and unity of its members, is qualified to assume this historic responsibility and to positively contribute to setting up a new network of international relations through which a just, comprehensive, and durable peace can be achieved; a network dominated by security and stability, one free of violence and terrorism. Thus, an order will be established in which stockpiling of mass-destruction weapons will cease and peoples' rights—foremost of which are their right to a free, dignified life with development and prosperity—will be asserted. It will be an order that will end regional wars and conflicts by peaceful means—by negotiations, dialogue, and reconciliation; an order in which an end will be put to ethnic, sectarian, and religious conflicts, in which education will spread and health services in all nations will improve and illiteracy, poverty, and disease will disappear.

This is the road that must be followed so that humanity can reach new horizons in progress and liberty without discrimination on ethnic, religious, class, or color bases.

Therefore, the renewal of the international structure which we have known for the past half century is one of the foremost tasks in which the Nonaligned Movement must creatively participate. We must propose a clear-cut, practical, and specific concept for a new structural organization of the United Nations, both in terms of its role and responsibility for preserving world peace and security and its economic and social tasks. This must be done in a way that will reflect the new realities and will guarantee the necessary degree of democracy in international relations by expanding the participation in its bodies and organizations.

We must debate things and revise matters and, indeed, must formulate a new, fair method that will turn the United Nations into a truly international organization that will at the same time be as effective as desired.

We must put forward a new concept of international security based on equality, mutual trust, coexistence, and the renunciation of force in international dealings. We must realize that we are living in an era where economic competition has first priority in international relations. Consequently the traditional concept of security becomes insufficient unless it is closely associated with economic security and comprehensive development. This can never happen unless human development is given the priority it deserves in our plans and national programs and in our economic and social policies, both on the national and international levels.

We must also propose a scientifically objective view of the way to resolve armed conflicts and regional disputes peacefully. Doubtless this particular issue has high priority within the Nonaligned Movement, indeed among all countries. Although the world has made great strides in eliminating barriers between countries and surmounting the hurdles of ideology and self-isolation, it still suffers from ethnic strife and border and tribal conflicts.

It is both honest and courageous to say that the conflicts among nonaligned countries have been more ferocious and devastating than among other countries. This can cause tremendous damage to the movement.

It is true that these disputes are not exactly new to the Movement but what is new is the fierce fighting and appalling destabilization of societies, unprecedented terrorizing of citizens, and destruction and annihilation of lives and property in the same country. We have seen pictures of such conflicts in some European areas which we thought had achieved security, stability, and coexistence among their peoples. Perhaps the sad tragedies in Bosnia are the best indication to the disintegration and setback of a founding (?member) of the Movement.

What we see in other nonaligned countries in Africa, such as Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi, is not less painful despite the OAU's strenuous efforts to stem the bloodshed and preserve lives and property. What is noteworthy in this regard is that the OAU agreed at the Cairo summit of last June to set up a mechanism to settle and prevent disputes and handle crises on the continent. Although it is in the first phase of its evolution, this experiment is worthy of support by the entire Nonaligned Movement provided there is the political will necessary to utilize and implement it.

If the picture is painful in numerous parts of Africa, there is a glimmer of hope for the whole world with the triumph of the South African people's will and their application on the 10th of this month to join the international community as a democratic, non- racial state.

This important experiment, which was based on dialogue and negotiations among all factions, has been successful in eliminating the effects of discrimination between various sects. Hence it deserves a double congratulation—congratulations from our movement, which supported that experiment, and congratulations from the entire world to its people and its combative president Nelson Mandela.

Wisdom, logic, and reason triumphed and everyone achieved a sound democratic victory, which became an example for the whole world to follow. Another window of hope was opened with an important step taken by the African countries toward economic integration when they ratified the agreement to establish the African Economic League. No doubt this accomplishment will achieve important economic results. It will have far-reaching consequences for the economic activity on our African continent and on the developing countries in general. It will also have a positive impact on the north-south and south-south dialogue.

As for Asia, which includes our brothers and partners in the Movement, it has not been safe from hotbeds of tension and conflicts in areas that ought to be quiet and in which the language of dialogue and reconciliation should supplant the methods of confrontation and pressure.

While saluting the fruitful efforts that settled Cambodia's crushing crisis, we look forward with hope and optimism to the attainment of stability, peace, and amity between the people of the two Koreas in east Asia and among nations in other hotbeds of tension in that continent.

Similarly it is time for the Afghan people to unite and halt the sequence of mutual destruction and killing. Everyone in that country must rise to the required level of responsibility in a manner befitting the abundant support it was accorded during its liberation struggle. Its citizens must now devote themselves to rebuilding their homeland and must renounce violence and destruction. They must turn their country into an oasis of stability and security for themselves, their neighbors, and for the friends who supported them during the liberation war, instead of repaying some of them with insults and threats.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for the regions of conflict to turn into zones of security and cooperation. The areas of tension and instability must turn into domains of peace and reassurance and borders must turn into crossing points for trade and goods, not remain passages for refugees and displaced people. Seas and oceans around the continents must become bridges of communication among countries. Their resources must become a joint inheritance of humanity to be used to meet the increasing needs of this planet's current and future citizens.

You know that in the Middle East, after more than 40 years of bloody strife, we recently experienced one of the most splendid days of modern history when the Palestinian and Israeli leaders signed the Palestinian Autonomy Agreement. This was a first step toward a just solution of the Palestinian issue enabling the Palestinian people to regain their rights, resume their process of reconstruction, and again take up their mission of extending bridges of creative cooperation for the good of future generations.

Brothers and sisters, parts of the Middle East and the Arab world continue to suffer the effects of wars in which many victims have fallen and nations have been terrorized. The calamities and painful repercussions of those wars could have been avoided. It is pointless now to blame this or that party. It is much more profitable to pledge earnestly to renounce the use or even the threat of force in our relations. We must seek to be wise and sober in handling our relations by respecting each other's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We must avert the dangers that threaten the security and domestic stability of each of our regional countries.

The logic of the new world order which we are seeking to shape is the logic of reason, wisdom, dialogue, and persuasion, not the logic of force and armed power. It behooves us to adhere to this logic with the same firmness which we call on others to have.

Ladies and gentlemen, the long night of suffering and hardship is not yet over and we are still waiting for the dawn of a new world. Nevertheless, humanity will soon see the threads of light. We must seize these threads and weave them into a comprehensive human view based on the advocacy of peace and stability. We must do this for the sake of progress, prosperity, justice, liberty, and human beings everywhere.

Let the bells chime the birth of this new dawn. Let the light of the civilization of the 21st century shine on a wiser and strong- willed Nonaligned Movement that will be able to provide a better future for its member nations and humanity at large.

Make God grant you success and guide your steps. Peace and the blessings and mercy of God be with you. [applause]

Jordan's al-Hasan Meets Counterparts

JN3105172094 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (PETRA)—Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with 'Amr Musa, Egyptian foreign minister and chairman of the Nonaligned foreign ministers' conference.

The talks dealt with the topics listed on the agenda of the conference, bilateral relations, issues related to the Middle East peace process, and some important Arab issues. The talks also dealt with a number of Arab and African issues.

Al-Hasan also met with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. They reviewed developments in the Yemeni arena.

He also met with the Tunisian foreign minister and reviewed with him the Arab situation and bilateral relations.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also met with some of the foreign ministers of the states participating in the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference which began its work today.

RSA Minister Pledges To Strengthen Ties

MB3105170994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1550 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Johannesburg May 29 SAPA—South Africa joined the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] on Tuesday [31 May] and Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said SA would like to share its special human rights experience with other countries. "We have suffered too much ourselves not to do so," he told the 11th conference of NAM foreign ministers in Cairo.

In a speech released in Johannesburg, he pledged to strengthen relations between South Africa and members of the NAM.

South Africa's problems were very similar to those faced daily by the international community, he said, and with barriers removed it could now offer something from its experiences. "Although our democracy is still in its infancy, we have already made significant progress in overcoming the effects of ethnic and other differences and in removing totalitarianism," he said.

He thanked the NAM for its work to eradicate apartheid. "Your efforts were not in vain, and today we can rejoice together at the successful establishment of a free and democratic SA."

Mr Nzo said SA would also like to share its economic, scientific and technical knowledge with other countries in Africa and the rest of the world. "Our goal is to establish sa as a responsible possessor of advanced technologies."

It would further like to act in concert with other members of the community of nations as a responsible world citizen, and was committed to supporting global efforts to deal with sustainable development and the environment.

South Africa's efforts to relieve poverty, which reflected international efforts to combat the north-south economic divide, would contribute towards stable and good government, he said.

There was a basis for close cooperation between South Africa and the NAM.

"If we can serve as a bridge to bring the interests of the industrialised world and developing world closer together, we will know that our struggle has been truly worthwhile," Mr Nzo said.

Iraq Objects to Kuwaiti Minister's Speech

NC3105192594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf objected during the evening session of the Nonaligned Movement's [NAM] ministerial conference to some things that were said in the speech of his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, such as accusations leveled at his country.

During the session, al-Sahhaf asked 'Amr Musa, chairman of the session, for permission to comment on the word "regime," which was used in Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's speech in reference to Iraq. Al-Sahhaf pointed out that it had been agreed to discuss the basic issues that were listed in the report of the NAM's president. He noted that agreement was reached during the meeting of ranking officials not to raise the issue of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

He said that the attacks on Iraq in the speech of the Kuwaiti foreign minister were not listed in the president's report that was submitted for discussion during the ministerial meeting. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa then spoke in his capacity as chairman of the current session. He said that he had taken note of the Iraqi foreign minister's comment. He then asked the Kuwaiti minister to continue his speech.

In his speech, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad spoke at length about Iraq's non-adherence to the Security Council resolutions on recognizing Kuwait's international borders. He noted that there are still Kuwaiti prisoners being held in Iraq.

The Iraqi minister had told MENA before the session started that the issue of lifting the international sanctions on Iraq and the damage Iraq is being subjected to would not be discussed during this meeting because it is not on the agenda.

Velayati Addresses Meeting

LD0106093594 Tehran IRNA in English 0706 GMT
1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 1, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday [31 May] outlined Iran's stance towards international developments at the 11th session of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Delivering a speech, he said that despite the existing hopes, conflicts continue to prevail in international relations and not only they have not ceased after the end of Cold War, but have also grown in numbers, geographical spread, intensity and human suffering.

Moreover, Velayati added, the rather arbitrary way of dealing with these conflicts and crises presents dangerous precedents both for international peace and security and for national sovereignty and the principle of non-interference.

Referring to genocide of Bosnian Muslims as a proof of an international disorder and lack of will for putting an end to the tragedy, Velayati noted that since Jakarta meeting no significant step has been taken in this regard.

The Security Council and NATO have adopted an irresponsible policy of negligence, silence and at best doing too little and too late, he stressed.

The foreign minister criticized the Security Council for having turned a blind eye even to its own decisions including those calling for respect for Bosnia's sovereignty and integrity and those denouncing ethnic cleansing.

He believed that under these circumstances, it is necessary to ensure that the ongoing efforts to find a settlement would at least be based on the principles already adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the London conference.

"Based on past experience, we believe that in order to ensure the necessary political, humanitarian and military conditions to attain these objectives and to force the aggressors into genuine negotiations, it is necessary to stop the siege of Bosnian cities by all possible means, to lift the arms embargo against this country, to remove all the obstacles made for dispatch of humanitarian assistance to Bosnians and to intensify the international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

"We should ask our coordinating bureau and the non-aligned caucus in the Security Council, in coordination with other concerned groups particularly the OIC contact group on Bosnia to move appropriate action in the Security Council and if necessary the General Assembly toward those ends," he continued.

On the Middle East crisis, Velayati said that the massacre in the Ibrahimi mosque in al-Khalil and the terrorist abduction of a Lebanese civilian by Israeli forces deep inside Lebanese territory are clear and obvious cases of state terrorism and hostage taking by official forces of the Zionist entity.

"In our analysis which is based on the experience of the past half century in Palestine and other similar situations, the attempts aimed at preserving the interests of this regime and imposing its illegitimate wishes on the Palestinian people, depriving them of their elementary human and national rights, cannot bring about a lasting solution to this crisis", he added.

The Non-Aligned Movement should play a more active and determining role in the process of preventing, mitigating and resolving international and regional conflicts and tragedies, Velayati underlined.

"We believe that the transitional nature of the international environment requires a continued assessment of the successes and shortcomings of the movement in meeting the challenges, in maintaining its principles and in making its presence and role felt in the international community", Velayati commented.

We do not share the now isolated view that with the collapse of the bi-polar system, the movement has lost its relevance, he noted, adding that although we believe in the necessity of enhancing the coordination in the position of the developing countries, we find it difficult to go along with the proposal for establishing unified Third-World grouping.

The shared and common interest of the developing world is not confined to the fields of economy and development, Velayati said. He went on to say that the developing world is facing social and political challenges particularly in today's transitional period that will determine the future course of inter-state relations.

He stressed that the world faces fundamental issues and problems ranging from a trend to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of developing less powerful nations, to concern over peace-keeping, peace-making, human rights as well as the restructuring of the United Nations and the Security Council.

Velayati further suggested that the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement should develop a more regular and routine system of exchange of information and consultations at various international fora at the appropriate level.

The coordinating bureau and the non-aligned caucus in the Security Council are valuable mechanisms which must be utilized more effectively and more often, he concluded.

Velayati Denies Request To Host Next Summit

NC0106095294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0812 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—MENA has learned that the issue of choosing a host country for the Nonaligned Movement's next summit has not been decided yet, despite some rumors that Iran, Morocco, and Egypt may submit requests.

In a statement to MENA, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati denied that Iran will submit a request if any of the Latin American group countries does not ask to host the summit, according to the geographical order under which the movement operates.

Egyptian diplomatic sources said that if there is no candidate from the Latin American countries, one of the Asian group countries may be nominated to host the next summit.

Palestinian Affairs

Paris Paper Publishes 'Extracts' of Draft Constitution

Part One

BR3105155294 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 May 94 p 6

[First of two-part unattributed report: "Jerusalem Is the Capital of Palestine"]

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has handed over to Mr. Jean-Marc Vanaut, a French lawyer, the preliminary draft of the Constitution of Palestine for the transitional period. This is the draft he is going to submit to the Palestinian National Council. This text, which is currently being debated by the various Palestinian authorities, especially in the occupied territories, is still subject to modification. We are publishing broad extracts from it.

General Provisions

Article 1

Sovereignty is the prerogative of the Palestinian people. The people exercises sovereignty via the legislative assemblies and the executive and legal powers, as defined in this law, during the transitional period.

Article 2

Palestine is governed by a system of parliamentary democracy based on a multiparty model, the respect of minority rights by the majority, and the respect of the decisions of the majority by minorities.

Article 3

Arabic is the official language of Palestine.

Article 4

Definition of the flag (...).

Article 5

Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. During the transitional period, the Palestinian authorities will be able to establish their seat anywhere else in Palestine.

Article 6

Sovereignty over the natural resources of Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people, who will exploit these resources and have them at their disposal in accordance with their interests and in respect of the law.

Article 7

Any amendment to the present law is to be made by a two-thirds majority of the members of the elected legislative council (...).

Civil Liberties and Fundamental Rights

Article 8

Palestine adheres to the rights and fundamental liberties enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Palestine also adheres to the international convention regarding the exercise of civil and political liberties, as well as to all conventions, declarations, and charters which guarantee these rights and liberties.

Article 9

Every person has the right to life.

Article 10

Men and women are equal before the law. Any discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited.

Article 11

All men are equal in human dignity. No person will be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading forms of punishment. No medical or scientific experimentation may be carried out on an individual without his consent. No statement obtained under torture or by cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment will be valid.

Article 12

Every citizen participates in public life and may stand as a candidate for election to positions of public responsibility.

Article 13

Every individual has the right to freedom and personal security. Nobody may be arbitrarily arrested and detained. Nobody may be deprived of his freedom, except for the reasons set out in the law and under the conditions stipulated by the law.

Article 14

Every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and expression. This freedom will be exercised in the respect of the freedoms of others and of the laws protecting national security, public order, health, and public morals.

Article 15

Freedom of political association is guaranteed, provided that the object and activities thereof do not violate the fundamental principles set out in the present law and that such activities are carried out in a peaceful manner. The provisions concerning the creation of political parties are defined in the law.

Article 16

The freedom of the press, publishing, and the media is guaranteed. Censorship of the press is prohibited, as well as its seizure or banning by the administration, subject to the provisions of Article 14 of the present law.

Article 17

Nobody will be subjected to arbitrary interference in his private life, family, household, or correspondence, nor to attacks on his honor and reputation.

Article 18

The domicile is inviolable. Nobody may enter it unless by virtue of a justified legal decision and in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 19

The right to private property is inviolable and open to all. This right may only be prejudiced in accordance with the law. Expropriation may only be decreed by virtue of public utility and in return for fair compensation.

Article 20

The freedom to exercise an economic activity is guaranteed. The law will govern the inspection conditions thereof in accordance with the requirements of the public interest.

Article 21

The families of martyrs, as well as invalids and the handicapped, are entitled to public assistance.

Article 22

Society as a whole is responsible for protecting motherhood, children, the family, and young people, as well as for the creation of a suitable framework for their development and growth. The Palestinian authorities are responsible for ensuring the achievement thereof within the framework defined by the law.

Article 23

The law defines the status of social security.

Article 24

Work is a right, a duty, and an honor. The Palestinian authorities will endeavor to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens by allowing them to exercise this right in accordance with the laws governing social equality. Nobody will be forced to perform compulsory labor, except in the following cases:

—Military service or any national service imposed by the law on conscientious objectors;

—Any service required by an emergency situation or natural disaster which threatens the life or wellbeing of society;

—Any action or service which is part of customary civil obligations.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to education. In public establishments, education up to and including secondary education is free of charge and compulsory. The Palestinian authorities will be responsible for providing education at all levels.

2. Religious or other minorities, by virtue of the conditions established by the law, have the right to create schools or private educational establishments in accordance with the general conditions set out in the law.

3. The authorities responsible for education will supervise the entire duration of schooling. Universities and scientific research centers will maintain their autonomy and independence in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 26

The right to demonstrate peacefully is recognized. This right may only be jeopardized under the conditions set out in the law and in accordance with the measures which, in a democratic society, are essential for maintaining national security, public order, the protection of public health, accepted standards of conduct, and the respect of the freedoms of others.

Article 27

1. Citizens have the right to create associations, including the right to found trade unions and to become affiliated with such unions in order to protect their interests.

2. This right may only be jeopardized under the conditions set out in the law and in accordance with the measures which, in a democratic society, are essential for maintaining national security, public order, the protection of public health, accepted standards of conduct, and the respect of the freedoms of others.

Article 28

No Palestinian may be expelled from his homeland, prevented from returning to it or leaving it, stripped of his nationality, or handed over to a foreign country, except in accordance with conventions governing the extradition of criminals.

Article 29

Individuals benefiting from political asylum granted by the Palestinian authorities in accordance with the provisions of international law may not be extradited.

Article 30

Every individual has the right to apply to the public authorities as regards him personally or for public matters.

Article 31

Jerusalem is the holy city of the three monotheist religions and, in accordance with the spiritual heritage of Palestine, it falls to the Palestinian authorities to encourage the conditions necessary for these religions to coexist, both in Jerusalem and throughout Palestine.

Article 32

The freedom of religion and worship is guaranteed provided it does not constitute a constraint on public order and accepted standards of conduct.

Article 33

The freedom of access to holy sites is guaranteed to citizens and foreigners, as well as the freedom to worship, while respecting the requirements of public security, order, and accepted standards of conduct.

Protection of Rights and Fundamental Liberties

Article 34

Every person whose rights and fundamental liberties, as set out in Sections 2 and 3, have not been respected, will have the right to take legal action to reestablish these rights and, if necessary, to receive pecuniary compensation.

Article 35

An independent commission on human rights will be created by virtue of a law. This commission will assume responsibility for applying provisions regarding human rights in Palestine.

Part Two

BR0106095494 Paris LE FIGARO in French 27 May 94 p 6

[Second of two-part unattributed report: "Jerusalem Is the Capital of Palestine"—numbers of all articles as published]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin has opted to take an ironic stance toward Yasir 'Arafat's recent statements regarding the holy war and the possibility that the Palestinians could infringe the Cairo agreement. The Israeli prime minister called the PLO leader a "big talker." For his part, the Israeli minister of police announced that 'Arafat would not be authorized to go to Jerusalem during his visit to Gaza and Jericho from 12 to 14 June. The fundamentalist group Hamas said that it was rejecting 'Arafat's offer to participate in the Palestinian National Authority, of which 19 out of 24 members have recently been appointed. Lastly, the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack in Rafah which killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded one. The Jihad said it wanted to punish the Israeli army, which captured Shi'ite leader Mustapha Dirani on Saturday [21 May] in Lebanon.

Today we will finish publishing the extracts of the preliminary draft of the Constitution of Palestine that Yasir 'Arafat recently submitted to lawyer Jean-Marc Varaut. This document, which aims to define what will be the basic law of Gaza and Jericho during the transitional period agreed with the government in Jerusalem, will soon be submitted to the Palestinian National Council. As we said in our edition of 26 May, this text is still subject to amendment, especially since the Israelis have a veto right.

Sovereignty of the Law

Article 36

The sovereignty of the law shall be the foundation of any political system in Palestine.

Article 37

All Palestinian authorities and institutions, as well as individuals, shall be duty-bound to respect the law. Should they violate the law, they shall be judged. The independence of the judiciary, the immunity thereof, and the respect and application of its judgments shall provide basic guarantees for the protection of rights and freedoms and for the sovereignty of the law.

Legislative Power

Article 47

Legislative power shall be wielded by the Council of National Authority during the transitional period and until the election of a legislative council, which shall wield legislative power.

Article 48

The elected legislative council shall decree the methods for exercising its activities and legislative functions. It shall govern the constitutional relationship with the executive branch. The internal rules regarding these provisions shall be considered a supplement to the present law.

Executive Power, the President

Article 50

The president of the executive committee shall be the president of the national authority. He shall exercise the functions accorded to him by the bylaws of the Palestine Liberation Organization and by the decisions of the national and central councils of the executive committee, in addition to those functions accorded to him by the law.

Article 52

The duration of the president's term of office shall be five years. The term may be renewed once. The term of the president and any successor thereto during the transitional period shall end upon termination of said period.

Article 54

The president shall be the commander in chief of the Palestinian Armed Forces.

Executive Power, The Council Of National Authority

Article 58

A. The present law shall create a council called the "Council of National Authority," the members of which shall be appointed by the executive committee, which shall supervise it in every area falling within its field of competence.

B. This Council shall pursue its activities following the first elections as a transitional government until the constitution of a government. Its means of action shall be defined by the elected legislative council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the present law.

Article 59

The council shall be responsible for running the affairs of the country.

Article 60

A. The council shall consist of a prime minister assisted by several ministers in accordance with the requirements of the general interest. It shall accord a minister to each ministry.

B. A minister may be accorded one or more ministries, as will be indicated in the nomination decree.

C. The president shall also hold the post of prime minister until the date of the elections and the constitution of a government in accordance with the provisions of Articles 48 and 56(2) of the present law.

Article 67

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 59 of the present law, the powers of the council shall be the following:

A. To define general policy within the framework of the powers attributed to it and in accordance with the proposals put forward by its members.
B. To apply the general policy defined by the Palestinian authorities.
C. To set and pass the budget.
D. To oversee the administration.
E. To ensure the execution of laws and guarantee that the provisions contained therein are respected.
F. To oversee the activities of the ministries as well as the various administrative services and provide coordination for them.
G. To debate proposals and policies from the various ministries as part of the exercising of their powers.
H. To assume all other powers accorded to it by the present law and by any other law in accordance with that which is set out in Article 47 of the present law.

Executive Power, Domestic Security Forces And Police

Article 79

A. The domestic security forces and the police shall be regular forces created to serve and protect the people, ensure national security, public order, and accepted standards of conduct. They shall exercise these functions within the framework defined by the law with impartiality and in full respect of rights and freedoms. Every individual must cooperate with the police and assist it in carrying out its duties.

Executive Power, Finances

Article 86

Taxes may only be established, modified, or eliminated by virtue of a law. It shall be prohibited to exempt—either in whole or in part—anyone from the payment of taxes, except for in those cases defined by the law.

Executive Power, Final And Transitional Provisions

Article 103

The present law shall be applied during the transitional period without prejudice to the duties and powers of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its institutions, especially in its representation of the Palestinian people, in international and external relations, and in relations with foreign governments and international organizations.

'Arafat Implies Agreement With Israel 'Only Temporary'

TA3105153394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has again referred to his agreement with Israel in the context of Muhammad's with the Quraish infidels 1,500 years ago. This time, 'Arafat was addressing a meeting of Palestinian contractors in Tunisia.

Suggesting that the PLO-Israel agreement was only temporary, he said that what had happened was not all they had wanted but it was the best they could get at the worst time.

'Arafat also told Palestinian businessmen that he wants them to become economic tigers. He claimed the average of $440 million in international aid per year was not enough for the Palestinians' urgent needs.

'Arafat Comments on Accord, Criticizes Donor Nations

NC3105122294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 31 May (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has noted that what the Palestinian people gained from the self-rule accord was not all they wanted but the best they could get under the worst circumstances.

Addressing the inaugural session of the constituent congress of the Palestinian Contractors Federation last night, 'Arafat said: The best achievement of the accord is that after 100 years we are again on the geographical map and the Palestinian entity is being recognized by those who said: "Palestine is a land without people for a people without a homeland."

'Arafat criticized the donor nations because they allocated just $2.2 billion for the West bank and Gaza Strip over five years at the rate of $440 million a year. He added that he informed U.S. President Clinton that the struggle is over whether Palestine should be a famine-stricken area as Gaza is now or one of the economic tigers in the region.

'Arafat Calls For 100-Day Economic Plan

NC3105204594 Paris AFP in English 2009 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Jericho, West Bank, May 31 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on members of the Palestinian Administration who run Jericho and Gaza to draw up a 100-day emergency plan, a member of the team said Tuesday [31 May].

Sa'ib 'Urayqat told AFP that 'Arafat had called upon each "minister" to draw up a separate plan for their own portfolio, as well as to move to the self-rule enclave of Jericho as soon as possible.

The PLO chief, who is to head the Authority, is himself expected to visit here in mid-June.

Twenty of the 24-member team have so far been named, 18 of whom have confirmed their participation, and 15 portfolios designated, not including the interior which 'Arafat is to take.

'Urayqat said the authority would rent a plot of land belonging to the Moslem religious authorities to construct a building where all the "ministries" are to be housed, with financial aid from Spain.

When Palestinian self-rule is extended to areas of the West Bank still under Israeli occupation, the authority will move its headquarters to Ramallah, a much larger town near Jerusalem, he said.

'Urayqat also said municipal elections would be held in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in mid-October, when polling is also expected to take place for a 100-seat autonomy council.

"If Israel keeps its commitments and withdraws its army from Palestinian towns and villages...the municipal elections will take place in mid-October," he said.

'Arafat Draws Islamic Figure Into Authority

JN3105133594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 May 94 p 17

[Report by Riyad Mansur in Amman]

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian self-rule authority has apparently succeeded in drawing a prominent West Bank Muslim Brotherhood leader into participating in the Palestinian Authority, conflicting with the position of the Hamas Movement, which was set up in 1987 from the Palestinian organization of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Hamas did not deny that this Islamic personality is currently in Tunis, but emphasized that Sa'id Bilal was fired from the Muslim Brotherhood and has no links with Hamas. Hamas said Bilal's invitation to Tunis was made within the framework of 'Arafat's preparations to detonate a media bomb by announcing the participation of this person in the Palestinian authority.

Hamas recalled how 'Arafat had given Palestine National Council [PNC] membership to five Islamic personalities, and then reports said that they were Hamas representatives in the PNC. Hamas added 'Arafat wants to repeat the same tactic now and allege that Hamas is with the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Views Current Problems, Aspirations

LD3105212394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 31 May 94

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by correspondents Mohamed Halloub and Nouara, in Algiers on 31 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. President, welcome to Radio Algiers.

['Arafat] Thank you. I am very glad I can talk from this radio and from this Algerian information rostrum which, I can still remember, afforded me the first opportunity to give an interview to EL MOUDJAHID before I was elected as chairman of the PLO. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In an interview we had with you two years ago in Tunis, we asked you about the future of the Palestinian-Israeli talks, and your answer came in the form of a disapproving question [as heard], so what has changed in your stance?

['Arafat] We now say (?yes), because what is happening now is based on the first recognition of the Palestinian people. In the past, they wanted to recognize neither the Palestinian people nor the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They wanted to give us autonomy, autonomy [word repeated in English]. Full stop. Autonomy to the inhabitants, not to the land.

But now, the decision is the withdrawal—when we say Gaza and Jericho first, this means the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the first Palestinian land, so that it becomes a Palestinian liberated land and the Palestinian liberated flag is hoisted over this free Palestinian land for the first time in this century. Yes, we still have big problems facing us. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the Palestinian authority will be organizing elections. Do you expect participation by the opposition, and do you expect victory in these elections?

['Arafat] In reality, according to what was conveyed to me, my brothers in the opposition—I cherish this Palestinian opposition [pauses] we are a democratic movement, a democratic scene; as Voltaire said: I might disagree with you, but I am prepared to fight for your freedom of opinion. Our constitution, which we announced in Algiers, provides for the majority to respect the view of the minority, and the minority to follow the decision of the majority. The opposition have let us know, in the talks we have had with them, that they will be taking part in the coming elections. This is official. Bu at the same time, we ask them to come and participate with us from now, because this is the homeland of all, and let everybody build. They should not leave us for ourselves now, and come only when the food is cooked. I have the right to ask them to start building now. Let us build together. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You have mentioned in one of your statements the issue of jihad, a word which aroused a strong reaction in Israeli spheres. How will you deal with the conditions on relinquishing the armed action?

['Arafat] If people think that we are going for a leisurely walk [words indistinct]. I know that we are not going for a leisurely walk. You should know that every day we have a problem. Are you following me? What could one say? Every day we have a problem. Every day we have an issue over which we disagree.

We know that we are not going for a leisurely walk. Did you forget the first and second Evian treaties in Algeria? We have the same story. [passage omitted]

There are secret organizations within the Israeli Armed Forces which collaborate with the settlers, just like what happened to you in Algeria. Our situation is similar to yours.

Yes, we do have problems, and those who think that we are going for a leisurely walk, let them know that we are not. Is this homeland not worth suffering for? We have paid the price of peace with our blood. Our leaders have been assassinated. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the last question. The subject of Jerusalem is one of the challenges facing the negotiations in the future. How do you see this subject?

['Arafat] [passage omitted] The Israeli ruler must understand one thing: That sacred Palestine, Arab Palestine was occupied in 1967 and in accordance with Resolution 242, Jerusalem, Arab Jerusalem, is part of the Arab and Palestinian territories which were occupied in 1967.

The basis from which we have proceeded in Madrid, Oslo, and Cairo is Resolutions 242 and 338, namely the lands which were occupied in 1967 including holy Jerusalem, Arab Jerusalem. Even the governments closest to them and their strategic ally the United States of America did not accept the decision that Israel should include Palestine's eternal capital. The capital of Arab Palestine is the capital of the state of Palestine. The battle is for it. We know that there are Israeli attempts to bring about demographic change. I say to my brother Arabs, Muslims and Christians: Jerusalem is not my Jerusalem, it is also your Jerusalem. Thank you.

Sha'th on Funding, Jerusalem, Contacts With Hamas

JN3105174594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 May 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian National Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening, you are welcome.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, when will the PNA members residing outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip begin to arrive in the self-rule area to pursue their work in order to confront the great challenges?

[Sha'th] In the next two weeks, God willing. Brother President Yasir 'Arafat will be there no later than 15 June.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, in fact, the current picture is not a rosy one. The economic situation is serious, and there is a great responsibility to be assumed by the PNA. Immediate measures should be taken, and any delay will make things difficult.

[Sha'th] No doubt, we will do our best to resolve these problems. However, brother Sa'id, I should say frankly that one sometimes forgets why the situation in the Gaza Strip is bad following 27 years of occupation. The Israeli Government, as an occupation government in this area, was in charge of the Gaza Strip for 27 years.

The current talk about the difficult crisis is true. However, the party that was in charge for 27 years is to be held responsible. Moreover, we have been assuming our responsibilities only for weeks. I believe this should be said to know who is responsible for this situation and how it can be resolved. In any case, I am not one of those who lament the past, and I believe we should make every effort to build and compensate for all these lengthy years of suffering experienced by our people in the Gaza Strip.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, what about the financial aid to the Palestinians, knowing that the economic situation is the key to the agreement's success?

[Sha'th] As you know, this aid has been delayed. We barely obtained money for the Palestinian police entry [into the self-rule area]. However, the greater portion of funds, which will come through the coordination committee organized by the World Bank, was delayed until the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed.

In any case, I believe these funds will come in succession, so all salaries can be disbursed on time and the current expenses can be managed at least for the first few months until we can collect part of the taxes which the Civil Administration used to collect before the agreement was signed. I am not pessimistic about this issue. I believe that we will fulfill all obligations, and sufficient funds will come to meet these obligations. What is important is that this should open the way for real economic development which will be the key to ending the problem of unemployment and create a new situation in the Palestinian territory.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, the issues of the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and the attempt by the Palestinian side to impose political realities were recently raised. The prime minister stated that the Palestinians committed themselves to establishing institutions in the self-rule area. What do you say about this?

[Sha'th] I believe there is confusion between the institutions which are confined to the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho, namely, the PNA areas—by the way, the agreement stipulates that these institutions will be established in Gaza and Jericho and not only in Jericho—and the Palestinian institutions existing in Jerusalem before the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

These Palestinian Arab institutions in East Jerusalem are Palestinian institutions and there was an agreement to keep them. During the Likud's rule, these institutions remained open. Orient House is not an institution that was built after signing the Gaza-Jericho agreement but it is one that was established and recognized, along with many other similar institutions, before the current Labor government took office. Thus, we find it very strange that there is objection to the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. We regard this objection as an open violation of the agreement by all concepts. This is because there was agreement that negotiations on Jerusalem's final status will be held during the final status negotiations. This does not at all allow the Israeli side to behave as if Jerusalem was an annexed city at a time when this side denies the Palestinian side, which is deeply entrenched in East Jerusalem, the right to keep its institutions. This cannot be accepted; it is inconceivable that the Likud government permitted something that the [Israeli] Labor Ministry has canceled with a pen stroke. This remark by Prime Minister Rabin is really strange and not understood.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, last question: On the level of setting up the PNA, are contacts still continuing with the Hamas Movement to join the PNA? Was Shaykh Sa'id Bilal officially appointed in the PNA?

[Sha'th] As far as I know, no new appointment has been made since the meeting held in Tunis. However, I know that there is real readiness to expand this authority. There are still six open portfolios for anyone who is ready to be committed to the agreement we signed and to work through this agreement to serve the Palestinian people. In fact, this is the basis through which contacts can be made with any of the Palestinian forces that are ready to participate in assuming the responsibility of next phase.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, brother.

Gaza Security Chief Requests Surrender of Murderers

NC3105205994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 May 94 p 1, 7

[Excerpt] Gaza—Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian national security forces in the Gaza Strip, has affirmed that no agreement has yet been reached with Hamas, because we insist on the surrender of those who murdered two citizens the day before yesterday. We have informed the party to which they belong about this.

He emphasized again that the security forces will pursue anyone who kidnaps or harasses any citizen or who tampers with the security of the citizens. There is only one Authority in the Gaza Strip, and this Authority has been entrusted with safeguarding the security of the citizens and punishing those who violate the law.

Asked whether an ultimatum has been given to these parties, he explained that the responsible party has been officially requested to hand over those who carried out the killing, and we will pursue the murderers. It would be important to us and to them if they hand over the murderers, he said. [passage omitted]

Gaza Security Forces Detain Islamic Jihad Activist

TA2705145594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] The Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip have detained an Islamic Jihad activist. According to Islamic leaders in Gaza the detainee, Hani al-'Abd, is a journalist working in a local communications center which is connected with Islamic Jihad. Islamic Jihad people in Gaza say that Palestinian policemen searched for al-'Abd several days ago. Since he was not at home, he came voluntarily to the police headquarters in Gaza, where he was detained. Palestinian security elements in Gaza confirm that the man was detained. They refused to say why, but noted that he is the only person currently jailed in the Gaza prison.

Islamic Jihad Protests

TA2905090494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 May 94 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] The first Gaza Strip Palestinian was yesterday detained and locked up in the city prison. Palestinian Police officers detained Hani' al-'Abd, who is suspected of having committed criminal offenses.

Al-'Abd, a Jabalyah resident and an Islamic Jihad activist, was detained at his workplace—the Khan Yunus Technological College. He was placed in the same cell in which he had been held by Israeli security services.

In reaction, the Islamic Jihad distributed a leaflet in Gaza claiming that Hani' al-Abd's arrest was the beginning of a civil war. The leaflet argued that al-'Abd was detained because of his affiliation with an organization that opposes the agreement with Israel, and not because of criminal charges.

Commander on Hamas Decision To Stop Killing Agents

NC3105211094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 May 94 p 4

[Report by Zaki Abu-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[Excerpts] Jericho—Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian national security forces in Jericho, has welcomed the decision of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to stop liquidating collaborators. He said: We view this decision with great appreciation. This decision will strengthen our national unity and mutual understanding to overcome the current problems and frustrate all those who are wagering on intra-Palestinian conflict.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Jabr said that this decision will restore to the Palestinian Authority its prestige, power, and respect. This is a positive decision that will ensure the success of the political process.

He affirmed that the Palestinian forces will resort to law to bring to account any Palestinian who violates security, order, or the law. Anarchy will not be tolerated.

Jabr expressed surprise at Israeli statements calling for moving Palestinian institutions from Jerusalem to the Palestinian self-rule areas. He said that such statements contradict the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which put off the discussion of the future of Jerusalem to the final stage. These statements are unilateral and unacceptable to the Palestinians.

He said that preparations and construction are underway to complete the main passage way for the residents of Gaza and Jericho. The dignity of the Palestinians will be respected on this passage way. [passage omitted]

Regarding the preparations for the arrival of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho, Jabr said that preparations are going ahead. We are awaiting instructions on the arrival date. There are special security arrangements that cannot be divulged now, he said. [passage omitted]

Al-Rujub Movements Restricted Due to Pronouncements

TA3105133594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin revealed today that the movements of Jibril al-Rujub, head of the PLO's security apparatus in Jericho, have been restricted and that he has been barred from leaving the city in the wake of his recent pronouncements.

During a visit to the Bedouin town of Lagiya in the Negev last Friday, al-Rujub stated that the autonomy was the first phase on the road to the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and that the Palestinians would not cease their struggle until Jerusalem has been liberated. Al-Rujub also called for the continuation of the armed struggle from within the boundaries of the autonomy.

'Arafat Appointee Said Linked to Israeli Intelligence

JN2805172694 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 28 May 94

[Excerpt] Damascus, 28 May (SANA)—Well-informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have revealed that the Fatah Central Committee has discussed the subject of Brigadier General Misbah Hanafi Saqr, who was appointed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as head of the Preventive Security Agency in Gaza despite evidence that Saqr had connections with the Israeli intelligence service.

The sources told TISHRIN that Saqr, who went missing in 1967, reportedly drowned in the River Jordan and was considered dead, had cooperated with the Israeli Army after the 1967 aggression and used to travel frequently to Egypt and Jordan under the name of 'Isa [last name indistinct] to bring back information to the Israeli intelligence service. When the Oslo agreement was signed, the Israelis insisted that 'Arafat should employ him, as well as Brigadier General 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu-al-Za'im. The Israelis [words indistinct] insisted that one of them should assume a prominent and important position in the Palestinian police force in the self-rule area. [passage omitted]

Shots Fired at Machinery Depot in Qatif Bloc

TA3105132294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Several shots were fired a short while ago at a heavy machinery depot near the settlement of Ganey Tal in the Qatif Bloc. There were no casualties. A soldier guarding the site returned fire and the security forces launched searches.

An investigation revealed that several bullets struck tractors and other equipment. A complaint was submitted to the regional liaision offices in Khan Yunus.

Hamas To Establish Political Party in Territories

JN3105171594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] In Amman, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Hamas Movement, has stated that the Movement intends to establish a political party in the occupied territories that comprises all the opposition forces in the territories.

Ghawshah explained that the party will deal with political tasks that would be agreed upon and that will be in line with the changes and current facts on the ground in the Palestinian arena, particularly following the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. Ghawshah added that this issue is being discussed within Hamas, which holds consultations with its allies within the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, or the 10 Palestinian opposition factions which have their headquarters in Damascus.

Hamas Reportedly Refuses To Surrender Weapons

NC3105210594 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 May 94 p 3, 7

[Text] Gaza—One of the leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has affirmed that Hamas welcomes the Palestinian Authority but will not participate in it. The statement was made during a visit by Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip, to a number of Islamic centers in the area and his meeting with a number of Hamas officials. During this visit, Maj. Gen. Yusuf expressed his readiness to cooperate on several issues with the Palestinian Authority.

In this regard, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, head of the Islamic Society, clarified the Islamic Movement's position under the Palestinian Authority, and dealt with the issue of the collection of weapons from the members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. He said: Neither Hamas nor its military wing will agree to surrender any of the weapons they collected over a period of many years as long as arms-carrying settlers remain inside the Gaza Strip. He also explained that the self-rule agreement does not compel Hamas to respond to everything contained in it, because Hamas does not accept self-rule.

Referring to the issue of enlistment in the Palestinian police force, Shaykh Bahr said Hamas has not directed its members to enlist in the Palestinian police.

Opposition Factions Reject Involvement in Self-Rule

PM2705154094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 May 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Oppositionist Palestinian Factions Turn Down Offer to Participate in National Authority"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki is making contacts with leaders of the Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo accord to persuade them to participate in the self-rule authority. But there have been no indications that any of the factions with which he met in Amman has agreed to do so, despite the "tempting offer" he is carrying. Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has turned down "Fatah's tempting offer during Zaki's meeting with its leaders in Amman." And that it reemphasized its refusal to participate in the administrative self-rule authority.

The sources added that the Fatah Central Committee member moved to Damascus yesterday, where he met with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He briefed them on Fatah's position on the Cairo accord and asked them to participate in the self-rule authority on the basis of shares equal to Fatah's in order to rebuild the negotiation process in accordance with international legitimacy.

The DFLP secretary general emphasized that the weapons of the national forces opposed to the Oslo accord "will remain their hands and will never be subject to any bargaining as long as there is occupation and settlers."

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said that the movement has turned down "an official offer" from the PLO to participate in the self-rule authority on an equal footing with Fatah. Nazzal said that the offer was presented during his meeting in Amman with Zaki, "who told me that he had been sent by the Palestinian leadership and Yasir 'Arafat personally. He offered us participation in the authority on the basis of seats equal in number to those of Fatah." He added that Hamas' reply to the offer after consideration was "the complete refusal to participate in this authority, because the movement is against the (self-rule)" accord. It also considers the Palestinian authority a tool in the hands of the occupation, not a real authority."

Donor State Representatives Discuss Aid to Police

NC3005144594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Representatives of the states making donations to the Palestinian police met here today under the chairmanship of Norwegian Ambassador to Cairo Per Thelin Haugestad.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the United States, Russia, Japan, the European Union, Israel, and the state of Palestine.

The conferees discussed ways to provide financial and material aid to help the Palestinian police perform their duty in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho. They also discussed ways to make the donor states speed up the provision of the assistance they have promised and to encourage other states to help the Palestinian police.

Rami Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the meeting, told MENA that the conferees also discussed the equipment and supplies the Palestinian security forces need to do their job.

High among these needs, he said, is money to pay the policemen, provide transport, and buy fuel, communications equipment, and accommodation for the force.

Mr. Rami Sha'th said that in the first year alone, the Palestinian police force needs about $180 million to do its job. He said the amount promised by the donor states is much less than that needed by the force.

He said a three-phased program for the work of the Palestinian police has been drafted. The first program, he explained, began early this month and will continue until mid-June. The second phase extends from mid-June to next May; and the third begins in May 1995 and ends one year later. He said the aim of these phases is to enable the Palestinian police and security forces to perform all their duties in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian official said the Palestinians have so far received 200 American vehicles and technical assistance from Saudi Arabia in transporting soldiers from several Arab countries to Gaza and Jericho.

It was agreed with the Germans to hold a bilateral meeting to discuss German assistance, which is motorbikes for the police, Sha'th said.

He said another meeting will be held with the Spanish side, which will donate vehicles and communications equipment. He added that the European Union promised to provide 10 million European Currency Units (about $12 million), 5 millions in cash and the other 5 millions in equipment and supplies.

Russian Envoy Views Talks With Syrian Leaders

TA3005172194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 May 94 p A5

[Report by Aluf Ben and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During his meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk recounted that he had met in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and with the representatives of the 10 rejectionist Palestinian organizations. In Jordan he met with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

The Russian envoy said that the representatives of the rejectionist groups had clarified that they would continue to oppose the agreement between the PLO and Israel and not participate in the autonomy council.

In his talks in Damascus, Posuvalyuk received the impression that the Syrians were attempting to portray themselves as being in no rush to make progress in the peace process. Syria's large debts to Russia were also discussed in the envoy's meetings with the Syrian foreign minister; however, no agreement was reached on the rescheduling of these debts.

Posuvalyuk said that although his government, as well as himself personally, would like to deepen their involvement in the peace process, Russia was currently preoccupied with its own domestic problems and its relations with its close neighbors.

The Russian envoy noted that Prime Minister Rabin's visit to Russia had been "very successful" and that his current tour of Israel would help imbue the framework established during the previous visit with additional content.

After his meeting with Beilin, Posuvalyuk explained: "I have not come to intervene in the negotiations but rather to discuss their details with my interlocutors." Beilin noted that Russia's involvement in the negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries was very important.

After the meeting, Posuvalyuk toured Jericho. At al-Aqsa camp, formerly known as the Hanan camp and headquarters for the Palestinian police in the Jericho area, Posuvalyuk met with Brigadier General 'Isma'il al-Hajj Jabr, the police commander and with Jibril al-Rujub, head of Palestinian preemptive security (a parallel body to the Israeli Shin Bet). The meeting was arranged and coordinated by officials at Orient House, the Palestinian headquarters in East Jerusalem.

At their meeting, which was conducted in Arabic due to the fact that the Russian envoy has a doctorate in Arabic studies, the Palestinians expressed their hope that Russia, as in the past, would continue to support them. The Palestinians also reviewed the situation in Jerusalem and the difficulties in implementing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, especially the issue of the Israeli settlements and the Shalom 'Al Yisra'el Synagogue affair.

The Palestinians noted that they had to rebuild the infrastructure and institutions in the autonomous areas and train a professional work force. Russia agreed to train Palestinian security personnel, including members of the preemptive security forces. These issues will be discussed in detail in the meeting that will take place today at the Orient House between Posuvalyuk and Palestinian politicians, including Faysal al-Husayni, who returned from Tunis yesterday after being appointed minister without portfolio in the Palestinian authority.

Posuvalyuk said that after meeting representatives of all the regional parties, he had come to "feel we have all managed to overcome the results of the Hebron massacre and must now move forward. I am convinced that both the Arab states and Israel aspire to promote the process. The Russian envoy expressed the hope that the Palestinians "will continue the negotiations and not get bogged down in internal disputes. This is the first chance the Palestinians have ever had to manage their own affairs and they should exploit this opportunity and pursue the peace process."

Posuvalyuk expressed the assessment that the peace process would not slow down following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He said he was optimistic about the process, especially after visiting Jericho. The Russian envoy opined that the process had reached a stage from which there was no turning back. [passage omitted]

EC Proposes Absorbing 100,000 Refugees From Lebanon

JN2705162094 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 May 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that the EC has adopted a plan to solve the Palestinian refugees problem in Lebanon, and that the EC member states have proposed this plan at the refugees committee meetings within the framework of the multilateral talks.

Palestinian sources in Amman told AL-BAYAN that the Italian ambassador to Lebanon has briefed the leaders of the opposition factions on this plan, which includes the absorption of approximately 100,000 Palestinians academicians in the EC states, and granting them the nationalities of these states. The plan also includes settling the reamining refugees in Lebanon and granting them Lebanese nationality, but without granting them the right to participate in elections, in order to avoid the disruption of the sectarian balance in Lebanon.

These sources added that the actual implementation of the plan has begun, and that the Lebanese Government has begun to grant citizenships to a number of refugees.

Release of 'Arafat's Wife's Uncle Reported

PM2705153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Ali Salih in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Tunis: " 'Arafat Releases His Wife's Uncle"]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources within the PLO have confirmed that the night before last 'Arafat released George Hawwa, the uncle of his wife Suha whom he had ordered arrested five days ago for interrogation in connection with a corruption case.

The sources said that George Hawwa, the businessman who lives in London, was accused of complicity in a bribery case involving foreign companies he tried to conclude contracts with in the name of the PLO. Other sources in Tunis say that he had sent messages to the trade attaches at foreign embassies in Tunis informing them of the formation of an investment company called

"Parly" [as transliterated] and that he was ready to make deals with them for projects in areas in the autonomy region and in the occupied territory. [passage omitted]

Western Decisions on Israeli Arms Embargo Criticized

NC0106112494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 May 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The Flow of Western Weapons Does Not Serve the Peace Process"]

[Text] Douglas Hurd, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has justified the British Government's decision to lift the arms embargo of Israel as a result of the encouraging developments in the peace process. To hide the reality of its bias toward Israel in making this decision, Hurd suggested that Britain is ready to reconsider the arms embargo the European Union has imposed on Syria, but only if the Syrian-Israeli negotiations make progress.

The British decision is strange in more ways than one. It is clearly biased toward Israel, since it provides that country with the chance to stockpile more weapons within the framework of what is called qualitative military superiority, which the West in general and the United States in particular have tried to secure for Israel over the years in confronting the Arab World. It is also strange because this decision is wrapped in the slogan of peace. Everyone knows that weapons are the exact opposite of true peace and that any progress toward peace requires a real decrease in armaments and strict supervision of the weapons in the region. These topics are supposed to be handled by the multilateral armament supervision committee, which came out of the Madrid conference.

In fact, the British decision was not the only one that contradicts the spirit and goals of the peace process in the region. Since the convention of the Madrid peace conference, the United States has provided Israel with many guarantees that it will enable that country to continue its military superiority and will continue to provide it with huge military aid. France also agreed with Israel recently to terminate the freeze on military cooperation between the two sides.

Thus, at a time when the West is hoisting the banner of bolstering the peace process in the region, in practice it is bolstering Israel's military power, which contradicts the objectives of the peace process and the roles the United States and Europe are supposed to play. This also strengthens the existing doubts that the talk about peace is contrary to real intentions. Who needs weapons during the age of peace? Who will these arms be directed against?

The essential question posed to Britain and other countries that are hastening to change their previous stances that were based on the major causes of the conflict, foremost of which is the Israeli occupation, is: Has the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories ended? And does taking new stances really contribute toward ending this occupation and eliminating the reasons for the Arab-Israeli conflict, or are they a new contribution by the West to strengthen Israel's adherence to the stances that it still proposes to this day and that are the major obstacles to a just peace?

Algeria

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives in Algiers on Visit

LD3105131294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, today received at the Presidency Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The audience was attended on the Algerian side by Mokdad Sifi and Mihoub Mihoubi, advisers on diplomatic affairs and presidential official spokesman. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by the Palestinian ambassador to Algeria, Abu al-'Iz, and Yasir Abd Rabbu, head of the PLO Information Department.

On leaving the office of the head of state, Mr. 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] First, I had to come here following the formation of the first Palestinian administration on the first liberated Palestinian territory. I had to come to Algeria; this country that always stood by its Palestinian brothers; Algeria, which has reiterated and continues to reiterate that we are with Palestine, irrespective of whether this Palestine was in the right or in the wrong.

I briefed the head of state on the latest developments in our land, and on the formation of the administration and the challenges facing us. I thanked him for the support he has provided for the Palestinian security forces—these forces that left this country for our land. Yesterday, these forces made moves using all their equipment; all this highlights the significance of these deeply rooted and original Palestinian-Algerian relations.

Also, we tackled all the problems facing the Palestinian national authority, especially now that we are starting from zero. Our underlying structure was totally destroyed by the Israeli occupation. The head of state reiterated to me and to my brothers that Algeria will remain on the side of the Palestinian people until, God willing, we pray in holy Jerusalem.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, what are the priorities of the political program?

['Arafat] You have seen the published program. The most important issue for us now is to stress our national unity, because we look forward to establishing a modern and democratic state. We take into consideration the pan-Arab relations that link us with our Arab nation. We also take into account the far-sightedness, originality and religions and spiritual foundations of Palestine, the first of the two kiblahs and the third holy mosque; sacred places for both prophet Mohammed, God's peace and prayers be upon Him, and Christ, peace be upon Him. [end recording]

European Union Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD3005125194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] A European Troika delegation, composed of foreign ministers from countries who chaired, are chairing, or will chair the European Union has arrived in our country on a working visit. They are Willy Claes, the Belgian deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs; George Papandreou, the Greek minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dieter Kastrup from Germany. They are accompanied by European Union [EU] Commissioner for Foreign Relations Hans van Dan Broek.

The delegation was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne Airport by Mohamed Salah Dembri, minister for foreign affairs and Ahmed Attaf, minister of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs.

George Papandreou, the Greek minister of state for foreign affairs, made the following statement to journalists:

[Begin Papandreou recording, in Greek fading to Arabic translation] First, let me say that we are very happy to be here in Algeria. We represent the Troika of the European Union Presidency. As you know, we will be holding talks with your foreign minister, your prime minister and your president on various political and economic matters. [end recording]

The Troika delegation brings with it a message of support from the EU states for the economic program and the ongoing national dialogue in Algeria. The EU is very pleased with Algeria's decision to sign a standby agreement with the IMF. For our part, we are here to show our readiness to support the program of this government after having been briefed on its details by Algerian officials.

Zeroual Meets Delegation

LD3005204894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpts] Head of State Liamine Zeroual received at the presidency this afternoon the European Union Troika delegation which arrived in Algeria this morning.

The delegation consists of Mr. Willy Claes, Belgian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Mr. George Papandreou, Greek minister of state for foreign affairs; and Mr. Dieter Kastrup, state secretary in the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Mr. George Papandreou made the following statement to Cherif Mamri:

[Begin Papandreou recording, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] We spoke frankly and clearly with the president and we exchanged views. We also expressed our support for the economic reform program which Algeria has begun, and for the political national dialogue. We hope that in the future there will be more cooperation between Algeria and the European Union. Our visit today to Algeria is merely an encouraging start. [end recording]

EU To Provide 150 Million ECU's

LD3105154694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] At the end of their visit to Algeria yesterday, the European troika stressed their support for the economic reforms currently under way and the progress of the dialogue between the Algerian government and the opposition, with the exception of the parties involved in violence, to overcome the political crisis. Colleague Bechir Hedebil has prepared the following report on the visit and its results.

[Hedebil] The Greek foreign minister stressed that the troika delegation came to Algeria with a message of support from the European Union [EU] for the Algerian economic plan and national dialogue.

George Papandreou described the talks between the European delegation and Algerian officials, led by [President] Liamine Zeroual as serious and frank.

In the economic sphere, the European delegation expressed its deep satisfaction at the economic plan and the government's concern about economic reforms. The Algerian Government delegation, led by [Prime Minister] Mokdad Sifi, was reassured about the EU's support for Algeria in its negotiations with international financial institutions. Papandreou said:

[Papandreou, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] *In the discussions we also talked about the recent signing of the agreement with the IMF and we expressed our support for Algeria because that agreement is regarded as a solid basis which demonstrates and proves the Algerian Government's determination to continue the economic reforms. We have expressed our support for these serious efforts.*

We also discussed constructive proposals for cooperation between Algeria and the EU. We made proposals on support and help for these efforts to achieve the government's plan.

[Hedebil] Regarding assistance or financial support, Papandreou said:

[Papandreou] *We have announced to the Algerian Government that 150 million ECU's, which is the second installment of a loan, will be paid to Algeria soon. Regarding the proposal and request for a new loan of 200 million ECU's, we have replied affirmatively to the Algerian request in order to consolidate the economic stabilization plan. The request will be submitted officially to the European Commission and the European Council of Ministers in forthcoming sessions.*

A delegation of European experts will visit Algeria to hold in-depth talks with Algerian counterparts to discuss joint action to consolidate and implement the economic plan.

[Hedebil] Papandreou concluded by saying that Algeria possessed enormous resources and had a very important future, and that the EU supported its plan and would make every effort to achieve the reforms by developing a partnership.

In the political sphere, the Greek minister stressed the need to support the democratic process:

[Papandreou] *Again let me stress as we have during our discussions that the European Union favors, supports and backs democratic governments, wherever they may be, which respect human rights, aspire to economic stability and the realization of reforms, including social reforms, and strongly condemns the use of violence and terrorism.*

The Algerian minister of foreign affairs, Mohamed Salah Dembri, focussed on the European delegation's understanding of the difficult situation in Algeria and the pressing need for supporting it financially in order to achieve economic and political stability in the country.

[Hedebil] He said that Algeria was determined to achieve market economy, had a deep desire to have economic dealings with the EU and that it had put an end to the old economic obstacles.

Sciences University Director Assassinated

LD3105195494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpt] Mr. Salah Djebaili, director of the University of Sciences and Technology in Bab Ezzouar, was assassinated this evening as he was about to enter his car in a car park near the university campus. [passage omitted]

13 'Terrorists' 'Eliminated' in Three Provinces

LD3105200694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The security services have let it be known today that they have eliminated 13 terrorists in Boumerdes, Batna, and Tlemcen and that a quantity of weapons have been recovered.

National Transitional Council Speaker Elected

LD3105202494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpt] Abdelkader Bensalah was today elected chairman of the National Transitional Council. He is the former spokesman for the National Dialogue Committee and the National Conference. [passage omitted]

Government To Sue AL-WATAN Over Article

LD2805225694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] The services of the Communication Ministry today issued an explanation on the article that was published by the daily AL-WATAN entitled: The Presidency: A New Structure Under Examination.

The Communication Ministry's statement asserted that the issue here revolved around an article that epitomized and commented in a derisory manner on a topic that was classified top secret by the Defense Ministry.

Following the publication of such an article, the Communication Ministry service explanation added, the office of the communication minister summoned AL-WATAN editors, as well as the journalist who wrote the article for a meeting. They were asked to furnish the names of those who supplied them with the information in a bid to establish the source of the leak that was used to write the article that clearly violated the criminal code articles, as well as the information bill.

A collective statement was signed by two AL-WATAN editors and the journalist with their free will. The latter did, however, sign another statement individually.

The communication minister's statement points out that the unfounded claims, published in today's AL-WATAN editorial, has complicated the situation in the country because the highest body of the state was depicted as a normal administration.

The Communication Ministry statement concluded by saying that there was no doubt that necessary legal measures will be taken by the competent authorities against AL-WATAN.

Egypt

Mubarak's Annual Meeting With Media Reported

NC3005192894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that no draft law on housing has so far been finalized and that the housing minister's statements in this regard are merely a viewpoints, all of which are still under study.

The president pointed out that when a final version of this law is reached, it will be presented to the public for discussion. It will be discussed in all institutions, because it is an issue that concerns the broad mass of citizens.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made this statement after President Mubarak's meeting with the media men on the 11th anniversary of such meetings. This meeting lasted for over 3 hours. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that after the meeting, President Mubarak answered questions posed by prominent writers, thinkers, and media men. AL-WAFD Chief Editor Jamal Badawi asked a question about Sudan. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak answered the question by affirming that it is only natural for relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people to be good and that the two peoples have known throughout history that they are linked till eternity. [passage omitted]

The president noted the various successive stands of the Sudanese regime in international forums. It has attempted to encourage certain attitudes not commensurate with the standard of relations between the two countries, such as when the Sudanese delegation recently objected to Egypt's membership in the East Africa Trade Organization at a time when Egypt had refrained from playing any role in supporting the decision to place Sudan on the list of states harboring terrorism.

The information minister clarified that President Mubarak pointed out the false reports published in some Arab newspapers that cited Sudanese newspapers. These reports claimed that Egypt has dispatched forces amounting to 10,000 soldiers to the Hala'ib area. The president questioned Egypt's incentives in sending troops there and who it would be fighting. He said that Egypt will not fight the Sudanese people; it has no motive to do so. We care a great deal about the Sudanese people, he added.

The president added that provocative attempts will not affect us. We need to be patient and feel comfortable that Egypt's security is in safe hands. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that during this meeting, writer Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan discussed the interviews with repentant terrorists recently broadcast on television. He affirmed that this is a good move on the part of the television, but said that there are fears regarding guarantees of the actual repentance of these terrorists and whether they will return to terrorism.

President Mubarak said: I can set your minds at ease regarding the issue of repentant terrorists. We need to be very cautious in creating conditions for repentance while keeping alert and following up. We ask our returning sons to follow the right path and join the nation. [passage omitted]

The information minister said President Mubarak highlighted the strong links between foreign and internal action. He stressed that had it not been for Egypt's international relations, no external support for Egypt's economic reform would have come. International support for our causes would not have come, be it support for the economy, politics, technology or trade cooperation, or the opening of markets to Egyptian products.

The president also noted that there are external issues that demand our attention, whether in Arab and Islamic circles or on the worldwide level. He used the example of Sudan and the events in Yemen, as well as the Somali crisis. He explained that these issues are linked to events inside Egypt and to the homeland's security.

The president also gave the example of Egypt's African role, which prompts us to intervene to resolve African differences and use its influence in creating an atmosphere of peace among the African states.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak referred to the importance of international relations, which have played a role in establishing peace. Mubarak pointed out that peace means stability of the region and that this stability affects domestic policy and cannot be separated from it. He said that the issue is not merely stability and the establishment of any peace, but peace must be based on the right, justice, and legitimate rights.

President Mubarak explained the developments of the Palestinian- Israeli contacts which preceded the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the contacts between Egypt and Israel over the issue, and the subsequent negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis in Oslo. He touched on the obstacles that faced the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations throughout the talks and Egypt's role in reconciling their views. He noted the efforts that were necessary up until the latest agreement was signed. He also referred to the details and differences over the size of Jericho and Gaza that arose before the signing of the agreement. He noted that the differences continued until early in the morning of the signing and that differences also arose during the signing. He explained that a solution to the crisis was reached through an agreement to continue the negotiations over the size of Gaza and Jericho, which was signed by the cosponsors of the peace process and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question by writer Zakariya Nil on party plurality and the lengths to which it might go, in light of Algeria's experience, President Mubarak said that this is one of the issues on the national dialogue agenda, noting that certain people may propose forming new parties. He said: My view is that we do not want to divide the people into parties, as this would divert us from our main goal of serving the people and improving their standard of living. We do not want to engage in partisan disputes that may divert us from our devotion to these major goals and interests. He said: I want to stress that there are parties that play a political and democratic role, but other parties have confined their role to publishing a newspaper that spreads rumors and casts doubt on the national performance. He said that the regime in Egypt is stable and will not be affected by certain personal actions. He said: I hope that through national dialogue we will be able to reach acceptable and logical decisions. He added: Certain people may interpret this as going over the head of the national dialogue, but I have a right to express my views.

In response to a question on the drafting committee and the time needed to prepare for the national dialogue, President Mubarak said that the dialogue will result in recommendations not decisions. He said: When we determine that the recommendations serve the interests of society, we will turn them into decisions. The decisions should be consistent with the people's interests in the present and future. He noted that the recommendations will be forwarded to the parties concerned—legislative, administrative, or executive bodies such the cabinet—for decisions. He noted that he envisions that the drafting committee will complete its work in June and that the dialogue will have a time limit so that it will achieve its goals and not become mere talk and 'one-upmanship.

Answering a question on protecting the Nile's waters from pollution in the wake of the dumping of large numbers of human bodies in the Rwanda lakes, one of the sources of the Nile River, President Mubarak affirmed that the Health Ministry is dealing with this issue and that the water is regularly and strictly analyzed to ensure it is safe to use.

Responding to a question on the Yemeni problem, President Mubarak stressed that unity must not be imposed by force but by polling the people and sounding out their feelings. He said that the use of force to impose unity is wrong. He called for halting the war, disengaging the combatants, and trying to bring the views of the two parties closer together. He pointed out that this is the best solution for the situation. He said that no one can impose unity by force; we have our own experience in this regard. He noted that if military force had been used to impose Syrian-Egyptian unity, it would have had negative repercussions and torn asunder the relations between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. He said that leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was wise when he made his decision to stop the use of military force. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives DPRK Foreign Minister

NC3105154694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—[passage omitted] President Husni Mubarak also received Kim Yong-nam, foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Kim Yong-nam said after the meeting that he conveyed to President Mubarak the greetings of Leader Kim Il-song and the leaders of North Korea, and noted that President Mubarak asked him to convey his greetings to the leader Kim Il-song.

He affirmed that President Mubarak greatly appreciates his excellent personal relationship with leader Kim Il-song.

Asked whether he discussed with the president North Korea's crisis at the United Nations, he said: We did not discuss this subject. He noted that he came to Cairo to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers conference.

The North Korean foreign minister affirmed that his country is looking forward to the visit by President

Mubarak, noting that there is a long-standing invitation to his excellency to make this visit. [passage omitted]

Musa, Iran's Velayati Do Not 'Rule Out' Meeting

NC0106094394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that nothing is impeding a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is taking part in the Nonaligned Movement Conference being held in Cairo.

In a statement to MENA, Velayati said that he does not rule out a meeting with 'Amr Musa. Velayati refused to either deny or confirm the reports that a meeting will be held with 'Amr Musa today. The Iranian foreign minister declined to comment whether the talks will deal with relations between Egypt and Iran.

Diplomatic Egyptian sources said that Egypt is ready to hold any meeting with the heads of delegations participating in the conference.

Musa Receives Credentials of Palestinian Envoy

NC3005193894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening received the credentials of Zuhdi al-Qidrah as ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mr. al-Qidrah is a Gazan living in Egypt. He has served as Fatah representative in Cairo for the past 20 years, and also held the post of acting Palestinian ambassador to Egypt for the past five years.

Al-Qidrah is succeeding Mr. Sa'id Kamal, who was appointed in March as assistant Arab League secretary general for Palestinian affairs.

People's Assembly Committee Regrets Sudanese Measures

NC3105134094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee expressed its deep regret for the unacceptable provocative measures that the Sudanese Government has recently adopted against Egyptian property and nationals in Sudan.

In a statement it has issued, the committee noted that these measures are just part of the unacceptable actions that have become a characteristic of the ruling Sudanese regime because of the internal and external crises gripping it.

The committee affirmed that Egypt cannot be provoked and deeply cares for the interests of the Sudanese people and the close relations between the two peoples, which no irresponsible behavior can harm.

National Dialogue Committee Holds First Meeting

NC0106091994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0804 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—The committee in charge of preparation for the national dialogue held its first meeting at the People's Assembly headquarters today under the chairmanship of Dr. Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party [NDP] and the committee moderator.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and NDP secretary general; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; party and trade union leaders; and a number of university professors and public figures.

The committee will discuss the organization of the national dialogue conference and its agenda, as well as determining the national forces who will participate in it.

Upon the completion of its task, the committee will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the issues to be agreed upon before calling the general conference to session.

MENA has learned that the parties participating in the dialogue have compiled working papers explaining their views on the issues they will raise during the national dialogue.

Al-Alfi Defends Police Handling of Incidents

NC3005204894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has emphasized that deceased lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani was a link between terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, who was killed in a confrontation with the police last month, and the sources abroad who finance terrorism. He noted that investigations have provided definite proof that the lawyer was involved in conveying instructions, receiving funds, and distributing them to the rest of the group members. Al-Alfi, who was speaking to members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo today, said that Madani had been implicated in several previous cases and committed an act of terrorism in 1991. He noted that many documents and papers were seized with him and that he was detained after obtaining a permit from the Public Prosecution Office.

Al-Alfi said that all the procedures used regarding lawyer Madani were legal and that not even the emergency law was used against him or against any other. He said: We were concerned to detain this man and to keep him alive but his health condition led to his death and thus we lost much information that we were supposed to obtain from him.

Al-Alfi said that what the lawyer's colleagues did was attempt to exploit his death by instigating public opinion against the Interior Ministry and the police. They made mendacious claims for purposes of instigation. He pointed out that the law passed by the People's Assembly—the legislative power—bans marches, so the security men had to confront any acts of violence or riots. He said that anyone who wants to protest must do so inside their association, or a delegation can submit objections to the Presidency but must not stage marches or demonstrations.

Responding to a question by a member of the American Chamber of Commerce about numerous complaints of maltreatment of the public at police posts, al-Alfi stressed that this issue is a great source of concern, noting that there is no doubt that there should be amity and mutual respect between the police and public, since it is their information that has greatly helped the security forces to detain terrorists. He noted that the Interior Ministry will appoint a public relations officer for every police post to serve as a link between individuals and the security agency.

Responding to a question on the Muslim Brotherhood's stance, role, and its relations with the extremists, al-Alfi said that it is obvious that the incidents that occurred in the Lawyers Syndicate were perpetrated by people who with records and whose affiliations are known.

In reply to a question about the security situation in Egypt and its effect on the volume of investment and businessmen's activities, al-Alfi said that all news agencies' reports on lack of security in Egypt are untrue. He said that Egypt is one of he safest places in the world and that everyone can safely walk Cairo's streets day or night, which is not common in many countries of the world.

Answering a question on human rights violations in Egypt, al-Alfi affirmed that there are no violations, noting that Egypt, with its ancient civilization will not besmirch its noble civilization with such acts. He said that best proof that there are no violations is the group of prisoners who were recently released from Mazra'at Turrah prison after they declared their repentance. He said that had any of these detainees suffered any abuse, it would have become known. He stressed that if the ministry used violence with prisoners, no one would come to court alive. He said that human rights is one of the most important subjects taught at the police academy. He noted that every security man knows well what human rights are and how to treat a defendant. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Recent Violence

NC2805102294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 May 94 p 5

[Statement issued by Muslim Brotherhood "on recent events in the country"; place and date not given]

[Text] Egypt and the Arab and Islamic nations are going through a crucial stage in their current history. Attempts to incite trouble and discord between the people and their governments are no secret to anyone, nor are the obvious conspiracies to break up a united people and fragment and partition their united homeland.

As a result of this deteriorating situation, many people have been killed, stability has been lost, and peace and security vanished.

The Muslim Brotherhood announces that its program for teaching the ways of God the Almighty and religion is a peaceful program based on awakening Islamic feeling, reviving belief in people's hearts, educating the nation in knowledge, work, and morals, and spreading a spirit of sacrifice, jihad, and dedication among the Islamic people to ascend from the abyss of backwardness and work on building the unity of the nation. To achieve this, the Muslim Brotherhood gets its inspiration from the words of justice, blessed may they be: Invite all to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious [Koranic verse], as well as in the Almighty's words: Let there arise from you a band of people inviting all that is good, enjoying what is right and forbidding what is wrong [Koranic verse]. At the same time, the Brotherhood shows respect for constitutions and laws and works through them to achieve the interests of the country and the people such as public freedoms, respect for human rights, and justice among people.

This has been manifested by the fact that the Brotherhood has taken part in all aspects of life within the framework of the constitution and laws in force. Brotherhood members have participated in local and parliamentary councils, professional associations, and other such institutions along with other political parties and forces. Thus, they were hoping to reform the situation through the words of justice, open dialogue, constructive opinion, impartial criticism, and honorable opposition.

There have been bitter acts of violence for many reasons ever since the Muslim Brotherhood emerged from the prisons nearly a quarter of a century ago. Not a single member of the Muslim Brotherhood took part in these events. On the contrary, the Brotherhood condemns these incidents because it considers such events a departure from the right course in preaching the ways of God, the Almighty, and a distancing from the path it follows. The president of the republic said this in statements to the French newspaper LE MONDE on 1 November last year. The president then said about the Muslim Brotherhood: It is an Islamic movement that has opted for political struggle rather than violence. Former Egyptian interior ministers at various stages have also stated these facts. The latest of these was a statement by Interior Minister Hasan al- Alfi in his news conference published in AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH on 14 April 1994. This is evidence of the innocence of the Muslim Brotherhood of such accusations which are made indiscriminately without any backing or proof.

Thousands of defendants have been tried in numerous cases and thousands of others were arrested. The Brotherhood's clear and explicit stance on these issues is evidence of its commitment to its wise plan in preaching the ways of God through conviction and confirmation.

The Muslim Brotherhood is not, and will not be a group advocating sedition and trouble, and will not be the cause of revolution or clashes. However, the absence of a response to the demands of the people, the delay in reforms, coupled with the big deterioration in services and disregard for man's basic rights, in addition to failure to provide the necessary guarantees for freedom of elections, some of these points, in fact all of them, are what is causing concern and fear regarding the deterioration of the situation to a unacceptable state.

May God protect Egypt from the evil of schemers and keep all harmful things at bay.

Warrant Issued for Muslim Brotherhood Guide

NC2805145394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 May 94 p 1

[Text] The Imbabah District Prosecutor has ordered the arrest of Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr. He is to be questioned about leaflets bearing his name that were distributed following the 'Id al-Fitr prayers the day before yesterday. Detectives in al-Jizah have arrested nine persons carrying large quantities of leaflets signed by the general guide that were printed without a license.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Interviewed

NC2805131594 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 May 94 p 7

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by Muhammad Raghib; place and date not given]

[Text] [Raghib] In an interview with DER SPIEGEL, President Husni Mubarak accused the Brotherhood of being an illegal organization involved in most terrorist activities. How does the Brotherhood respond to this accusation?

[Al-Hudaybi] President Mubarak himself, in a recent visit to Europe, told the French newspaper LE MONDE that the Muslim Brotherhood is a moderate group that shuns terror and expresses its views through peaceful means. Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, less than a month ago, also said that the Brotherhood shuns violence and terror and believes in peaceful means. Therefore, I do not know why there has been such a change of heart.

[Raghib] How do you explain this reversal of attitude toward your group. Which interpretation do you think is correct?

[Al-Hudaybi] For the past 25 years, our record has been clean. Every investigation into acts of violence committed during this period came to the inevitable conclusion that the Muslim Brotherhood is not involved in violence or linked with terror in any way.

Furthermore, we have taken part in the People's Assembly elections in 1984 and 1987. We had a respectable number of deputies in the Assembly. We participated in parliamentary life in a serious way. No one ever accused us of breaking the law or deviating from the constitution.

We also have members in the current municipal councils who have never violated the law. Some of our members have been elected to boards of prestigious professional associations and performed services that have been greatly commended. Their conduct and unionist work fell within the constitutional, legal, and legitimate boundaries and evoked nothing but praise. No one accused them of committing any act of violence. Their actions speak louder than words.

[Raghib] Recent incidents in the Bar Association sparked off accusations that the Brotherhood is using the Association for illegal purposes. Pro-government writers have repeatedly made this claim. How do you respond to such an accusation?

[Al-Hudaybi] The Brotherhood is opposed to violence. I am not well-informed about Bar Association events because I have been sick lately. But allow me to say, for starters, that the authority that is entitled to make such accusations is the Public Prosecution Office, which has not said anything so far. The accusations that were made came from the Interior Ministry, an authority which, in our opinion, is not entitled to issue charges.

The whole controversy and the attendant speculations and accusations could have been avoided had the coroner's report on the causes of death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani been published. The issue is not whether Madani belonged or did not belong to terrorist organizations, but whether he was tortured or not.

[Raghib] The Brotherhood issued a statement last Thursday denying that it calls for sedition. What did the statement aim to achieve, and why was it issued at this very moment?

[Al-Hudaybi] We issued this statement to refute the accusations leveled upon us. We aimed to answer all those who took the opportunity to defame and assail the Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood has taken part in a lot of political and social events in Egypt and other countries. We did our bit during the October 1992 earthquake. Many of our members offered professional care to the victims. This was a peaceful effort, a work of charity. On the external level, we have helped out in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other areas.

[Raghib] You know and we know that the Muslim Brotherhood's activities have so far been banned. Are there any other channels that the Brotherhood is using to carry out its political and social activities?

[Al-Hudaybi] No. There are no illegal channels for either political or social activities. All of our activities are carried out in public. All the Brotherhood members are known to the state's official departments. There is no reason why we should work in secret. All of our statements and activities are done in public within the framework of the constitution and law.

[Raghib] The Muslim Brotherhood has a long history of violence since its establishment in 1928. Some reports indicate that the cornerstone of the Brotherhood's old military organization is that it supports current terrorist actions with the aim of changing the regime. Is this true?

[Al-Hudaybi] The Brotherhood is neither involved nor has anything to do with the current events. We have no members who act outside the Brotherhood's framework. As for the Brotherhood's history since its establishment, its policies before the revolution were directed against the Jews and colonialists. The Brotherhood had its excuses for that. But now times have changed and the situation is different. The reports that the remnants of the military organization are working to overthrow the regime are baseless. They are all rumors propagated by our enemies who know that they are false. Therefore, I decline to elaborate on the issue.

[Raghib] What about the Salsabil Computer Company's case which was blamed on a secret organization of the Brotherhood. Is not that true?

[Al-Hudaybi] It was not really an accusation incriminating the Brotherhood. Had it been true, none of the defendants would have been released from the prison. Therefore, we do not consider it as an incriminating factor or an accusation. The Brotherhood has no links whatsoever with this company.

[Raghib] What about the Muslim Brotherhood's ties with its counterparts in Arab and foreign countries?

[Al-Hudaybi] Our relations with the Muslim Brotherhood abroad are far from being secret. We attend seminars and conferences held by the Brotherhood in any Arab or foreign country. We attend these meetings by invitation. We discuss the status of the Brotherhood in each country and we assess everything that concerns the Islamic countries. But in Egypt we are not allowed to hold such seminars or conferences or to invite any representative of the Brotherhood from abroad.

[Raghib] Who currently finances the Brotherhood?

[Al-Hudaybi] Any able member of the Brotherhood can donate according to his limit, but the public donations are published in the press. These donations are deposited in the banks' accounts and are inspected by the Central Auditing Agency. This is the situation. The Brotherhood has no specific financial sources from either inside or outside.

[Raghib] You certainly want to take part in the national dialogue and the regime is refusing to allow this. What is the solution?

[Al-Hudaybi] I have nothing to say on this subject. The issue of national dialogue has become effaced and is not listed on our agenda. We are not thinking of taking part in this dialogue when it is held.

Muslim Brotherhood Said To Fund Terrorists

NC3005203394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed the importance of the media in confronting extremism and the extremists. He said in statements today that Egypt will never lapse into a state of anarchy nor will it move away from the law which it set 7,000 years ago.

He pointed out that there is a group belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood which has been involved in financing terrorist groups. He said that he would not reveal how many people there are because all the facts are now before the prosecution and will be revealed at the appropriate time.

He said that the Interior Ministry will not stop confronting terrorism.

The interior minister said that there are continuous and extensive campaigns against those trading in cassettes with recordings of calls for extremism and that the ministry is in the process of submitting a law that increases punishment for such merchants.

On the other hand, during his meeting today with a group of businessmen from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, Mr. Hasan al-Alfi affirmed that the progress the Interior Ministry has achieved in imposing its control over the terrorist elements did not come in a vacuum but resulted from following a scientific system of training, modernization, and development in all the agencies, in addition to coordination and comprehensiveness in all the ministry's departments.

Al-Alfi said during the meeting that the Interior Ministry now has a large data base on all those who carry out terrorist acts whether inside Egypt or outside it. He praised the Egyptian people, who are now providing all sorts of help to the security organs.

On the other hand, Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Jabir, deputy chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, affirmed in statements on the sidelines of the meeting that the Chamber, which represents 650 companies operating in Egypt, is convinced that the Interior Ministry is not sparing any effort in exposing all the facts.

He said that the security situation in Egypt is now more stable than it was before, as a result of the successive security sweeps and the successes the Egyptian Interior Ministry has had in confronting the terrorists. He said that foreign media reporting on Egypt has improved immensely.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Cairo had asked Mr. Hasan al-Alfi to hold a meeting to discuss the security situation in Egypt and its relationship to encouraging investment in Egypt.

The meeting was attended by a number of prominent figures from the Interior Ministry and ranking businessmen, as well as members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and some economists from Egypt.

Libya

JANA Editor on Saudi Envoy's Remarks in UK

LD2605173894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpts] The Saudi ambassador in London admitted the failure of Saudi authorities to provide the necessary services to the pilgrims during this year's pilgrimage season, a matter which led to the death of a large number of them. The ambassador informed English radio that the number of pilgrims who died this year reached 829 people.

The JANA Islamic affairs editor commented on the Saudi ambassador's statements by saying:

It seems that Saudi Arabia is incapable of fully carrying out its duties toward the pilgrims who come to it each year from all over the world. This has become clear this year, when a large number of pilgrims have died, a matter that has been confirmed by numerous observers who travelled to the place in question.

The editor said that what happened to the pilgrims this year makes it incumbent on the Islamic countries to bear their responsibilities in securing the safety of the pilgrims to the holy Kaaba and carry out their duties in full toward this issue that concern all Muslims, and not only Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The Islamic affairs editor concluded his comment by saying: What the Saudi ambassador has said raises a logical question: If Saudi Arabia was incapable of dealing with the situation of defending itself, how could it offer its services to the other Gulf countries in connection with offering protection to these countries in the face of foreign dangers, as it called them?

Mauritania

'Arafat Arrives for Visit

LD3105225194 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpts] The Palestinian President Mr. Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the capital this evening on a visit to our country. [passage omitted]

After listening to the Palestinian and Mauritanian national anthems and reviewing a unit from the armed forces which performed a salute of honor, President 'Arafat greeted the people who welcomed him before going to the VIP lounge where he answered the questions of the national press.

Colleague (Mounha Bint Sbiaa) from the national TV asked him about the goal of the visit and the Palestinian president replied: I am not asked when I come to my second country; I am here with my brother and the beloved of our people the president, for whom we have all friendship and love. In reality, before my visit to the homeland soon, God willing, it is my duty to come to greet his excellency the president and thank him for this continuous and permanent support which we have received from the Mauritanian president, government, and people at all levels and at every meeting. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] According to what we have announced and as you mentioned, we can say that your present visit is a farewell one to his excellency the president before your blessed journey to Jericho, God willing. What are the certain guarantees which we can talk about in the future when we mention the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho first as being an effective start for the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and consequently for the setting up of a free independent Palestinian state on this land?

['Arafat] The sole guarantee is our people and the sole guarantee is our Arab brothers who stand by us and the sole guarantee is our friends in the world who stand by us. It is known that we only get things with difficulty and it is no coincidence that we have been negotiating for more than two and a half years and what for, for a transitional period and we are still negotiating with our Arab brothers and despite that, we have not been able to reach that, and there are still negotiations on the Syrian track, and on the Palestinian track which will continue, and there are also negotiations on the Lebanese and Jordanian tracks until we are able to reach a just and comprehensive solution on all the Arab tracks and not only on the Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, or Lebanese tracks [sentence as heard]. [end recording]

Bahrain

Yemen's al-'Attas Arrives in al-Manamah

EA3005215394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] The prime minister, brother engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, arrived in al-Manamah today for a visit to the State of Bahrain as part of this tour of a number of countries in the region. Reporting this, the Gulf News Agency said brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas had a letter from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, on the last developments in the Yemeni arena.

Meets With Amir

JN3105133494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Manama, 31 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, received here today Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, who conveyed a message to his highness from al-Bid dealing with latest developments in Yemen.

Al-'Attas briefed his highness the amir of Bahrain on the latest developments in Yemen and the efforts aimed to stop fighting between brothers in Yemen.

Shaykh 'Isa regretted [words indistinct] fighting between brothers in Yemen and said he hoped this bloody fighting would stop and that differences would be resolved through negotiations. His highness said the regrettable and bloody events in Yemen will have repercussions on the Arab and Islamic [words indistinct].

The amir of Bahrain called on both sides in Yemen to resort to reason and logic in order to preserve Yemen and its brotherly people, and expressed hope that the Arab [word indistinct] efforts would succeed in halting fighting in Yemen and restoring peace, security, and stability to this sisterly country.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah, housing minister; Yusuf Irhamah al-Dawsari, head of the Amiri Court; and Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department.

Qatar

Yemen's al-'Attas Arrives in Doha

JN3105133894 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Doha, 31 May (WAKH)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, arrived in Doha this morning on a short visit to Qatar within the framework of his current tour in the region.

He was received on arrival at Doha International Airport by 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'd al-Dirham, Qatari minister of Social Affairs and Housing.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Undergoes Gallstone Surgery

LD3105201194 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpts] We have received the following from the Royal Court:

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, yesterday evening, 30 May, underwent a medical examination at the King Fahd Hospital for the Armed Forces in Jeddah. During the examination, a stone was discovered in the passage leading to the gall bladder. The stone was successfully removed with a surgical probe. [passage omitted]

The king left the hospital this afternoon for al-Salam Palace in good health. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Roundup of North-South Fighting on 31 May

Tawr al-Bahah, al-'Abr Areas Purged

JN3105142694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal has said that the forces of legitimacy and unity have completed the purging of the remaining pockets which were controlled by the forces of apostasy and secession in the Lahij Governorate. He said that they have completed the purging of the Tawr al-Bahah District. He stressed that the important targets in the Aden Governorate are now within the range of the guns of the forces of legitimacy and unity.

He noted that the forces of legitimacy in the governorates of Shabwah and Hadhramaut have managed to purge the al-'Abr District in the Hadhramaut Governorate.

This came at the news conference Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal held at the Prime Ministry today. The conference was attended by the representatives and correspondents of local, Arab, and foreign news media. Brothers 'Abd-al-Rahman Zaydan, director of the Council of Ministers' office and [name indistinct], the Information Ministry under secretary, were also present.

The deputy prime minister spoke about various national issues, particularly the current situation in Yemen.

Northern Attack Near Aden Repelled

NC3105165494 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Al-Waht, Yemen, May 31 (AFP)--Southern Yemeni troops repelled an assault by northern tanks on a village near the south's stronghold of Aden on Tuesday [31 May], a correspondent reported.

Two tank crewmen were killed and 12 captured, while a southern civilian also died and 10 others were injured, according to an Aden television reporter also at the scene.

A T-54 tank was overturned at the entrance to the village of al-Waht, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Aden. Black smoke emerged from three other tanks outside Waht.

Southern soldiers and militiamen, backed by Mil MI-8 helicopters, raked the area with RPG-7 rocket and automatic weapons fire, while northern artillery on the nearby Subbayhah Mountains provided cover for the retreating tanks.

Northern forces have opened new fronts in their four-week war to capture Aden, with fierce fighting around villages northwest of the port city, a military spokesman and correspondents said.

Northerners Defeated at Tawr al-Bahah

EA3105160594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1440 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] A responsible source in the command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has just stated the following: With rare heroism and courage, our Armed Forces have struck crushing blows against the aggressive, invading forces of the al-Ahmar gang on the [words indistinct] front at Tawr al-Bahah, and al-Turbah, forcing them to retreat and surrender. The aggressors are now fleeing, under fire from our fighter aircraft, artillery, and ground forces. Our heroic fighters enjoy high morale, and effective, broad support and participation from the masses, who have rallied round their Armed Forces—which are faithfully defending the DRY. God is great. God is great.

Battles Raging Along All Fronts

EA3105190594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] A responsible source in the command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has issued the following statement: In an open and dangerous provocation against all Arab and international efforts to stop the shedding of Yemeni blood and destruction of Yemeni property, to which the Yemeni people are being exposed as a result of the destructive, total war declared against them by the leader of the bloody al-Ahmar gang, the forces of the al-Ahmar gang have (?resumed) their aggressive operations and military attacks. They have begun frantically shelling and launching missiles on all fronts [words indistinct] at our people, who have refused to submit to ahmarist domination and [word indistinct].

Currently, fierce, [word indistinct] battles are being fought on all fronts between our heroic and steadfast defending forces and the aggressive invading forces, who were pushed into battle by the forces of the gang of the adventurist and bloody al-Ahmar in Abyan, Shabwah and in the direction of Kirsh, Bab al-Mandeb, (?Sa'id), and [words indistinct]. As for the al-Turbah front, this is the most heroic and fiercely fought over front contested by the al-Ahmar gang, [word indistinct] as an expression and [word indistinct] of the gang's absolute rejection of all good Arab and international [word indistinct] to bring about a cease-fire, stop the bloodshed and destruction against our people in the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen], since 27 April. The command of the Armed Forces of the DRY reaffirms that our heroic Armed Forces, (?supported by) the loyal masses of the people, (?will repel) this new aggression [words indistinct]. God is great. Victory is our ally.

Aden Denies Clashes in Hadramawt

EA3105192194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] A responsible source from the command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Repubic of Yemen [DRY] commented on the statements made by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and broadcast by Sanaa radio, which were given out to foreign media, which reported that his forces were currently advancing on Hadramawt to mop up what he described as the last pockets of the gang of apostasy and secession.

The source commented: We are disgusted to hear in these statements what does not fatten or satisfy hunger [Koranic verse]. We inform the public that the war being fought in our country today enters its second month, and that the forces of the DRY are steadfast, delivering successive blows against the forces of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on all fronts.

The source said battles are currently being fought in Shabwah Governorate, hundreds of kilometres away from the Governorate of Hadramawt, which 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih only dreams of reaching. This he can do only if his forces can burrow underground until they get to Hadramawt. The source stressed that the masses of the Shabwah Governorate and our Armed Forces are supported by the masses of the Ma'rib Governorate, and that between them they are delivering successive blows against the forces of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and are forcing them into retreat and surrender.

Aden Denies Clashes Near Lahijj

EA3105203094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source in the command of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has expressed astonishment and deep regret over what was reported by the media, quoting 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal, who shamelessely stated that the Sanaa regime's forces had drawn close to the Lahijj Governorate's supply of drinking water and was about to capture it. What concerns us here is to refute the report, which conflicts with the facts of battles being fought far away, toward the Tawr al-Bahah, al-Khattabiyyah, and al-Turbah areas, where our heroic forces have delivered crushing blows against the invading forces. [passage omitted]

Update on North's Progress

NC3105214794 London MBC Television in Arabic 2110 GMT 31 May 94

[Interview with MBC correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit in Aden by MBC announcer Antoine 'Awn in London—live]

[Text] ['Awn] Tawfiq, good evening. We have heard the latest reports that fierce battles are waging about 20 kilometers from Aden and that the northerners have confirmed that they have taken control of al-Waht, so that Aden is now within range of their artillery. What information do you have?

[Jazulit] First of all, as you might have heard, there is a batch of tanks leaving their base in the direction of the al-'Anad area. As for the information you have, I cannot confirm it either way. All we know is that fierce battles are continuing on all the fronts, with the exception of the Abyan axis. If it is true that this area has fallen, we will visit it tomorrow to confirm it.

['Awn] Some Yemeni officials have been touring the Gulf states. The most recent has been by Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas to Qatar. Is Aden expecting recognition from the Gulf?

[Jazulit] First of all, I wish to tell you that Engineer Haydar al-'Attas arrived at Aden airport this evening at around 2130 Aden time. He was accompanied by 'Abd-al-Qawi al-Makkawi, who is considered a member of the Presidential Council in the new state here in Aden. He was received by the vice president and a group of Yemeni Socialist Party members. Upon his arrival, I spoke to him. He confirmed two facts: First, that the Arab Gulf states understand very well the crisis Yemen is going through. He also affirmed that he is expecting recognition of their new state soon by the Arabian Gulf states.

['Awn] As you know Tawfiq, the members of the Security Council are holding consultations tonight to stop the fighting in Yemen and find a formula for a solution. What does Aden expect the international community to do for it?

[Jazulit] I think that Aden believes international interests, and Western ones in particular, will soon be in danger since the war has now developed into a war of attrition. Proceeding from this perspective, I know that Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, who was accompanying the southern Yemeni prime minister during his tour of the Arabian Gulf states, did not return to Aden but left directly from Qatar for New York to participate in developments in the United Nations' corridors. The new prime minister here in Aden told me that they are very optimistic that a resolution will be issued stipulating the need to stop all fighting in Yemen.

['Awn] Tawfiq, thank you. We will stay in touch with for further details.

[Jazulit] Thank you.

Missile Crashes Into Aden

NC0106070494 Paris AFP in English 2305 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Aden, June 1 (AFP)—A missile fired by north Yemeni forces slammed into Aden, the capital of southern Yemen, early Wednesday, triggering a huge fire near the airport, correspondents reported.

South Yemeni anti-aircraft units had earlier opened fire in an attempt to intercept the missile.

Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene but there were no immediate reports of causalities.

Yemen erupted into open civil war between northern and southern forces on May 5 as their political leaders had failed to agree on governing the country.

Parliament Extends State of Emergency 30 Days

JN0106133594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] During the session it held this morning under Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives heard the letter addressed to it from Acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar.

The letter reads: Brother Esteemed Speaker of the House of Representatives, Esteemed Members of the House of Representatives. May God's peace and blessing be upon you. The House of Representatives had earlier approved the declaration of the state of emergency in accordance with Republican Decree No. 20 of 1994, which was necessitated by the internal sedition which was the result of the rebellion of secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership against the constitutional legitimacy, and the ensuing military actions and direct threat to the citizens' security and stability. Since the political leadership was concerned to make the period of the state of emergency very limited in harmony with the democratic policy of our country, the period was set for 30 days. However, the circumstances which necessitated the declaration of the state of emergency have not been finally settled. This calls for extending the state of emergency for another similar period. Based on Article 97 of the Constitution on the need to obtain the House of Representatives' approval for extending the state of emergency, we hope that the House will extend it for another 30 days as of the end of the previous period, taking into consideration that the National Defense Council, which is entrusted with assessing the state of emergency, has approved such extension. In light of this, we present this request to your esteemed house. Please accept our greetings and appreciation.

The Parliament has agreed to extend the state of emergency for another 30 days in accordance with the public interest. [passage omitted]

Sanaa Accuses Saudi Arabia, Gulf States of Interference

JN0106105094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] New York, 1 Jun (INA)—Yemen has officially accused the Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, of interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Yemen.

This is contained in an official message addressed to the Security Council by Yemeni UN Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal.

In the message, Yemen said it considers the call for convening a Security Council meeting to be interference in its internal affairs, which conflicts with Paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the UN Charter that says nothing in the charter justifies UN interference in affairs that are purely part of the sovereignty of any country, and that nothing in the charter stipulates that member states can call for a discussion of such issues. [passage omitted]

House Sends Message to Nonaligned Meeting in Cairo

JN3105151094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpts] House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar has sent a message to 'Amr Musa, chairman of the current session of the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference, in which he expressed, on his behalf and on behalf of the members of the House of Representatives, wishes of success for the conference. Attached to the message was a message from the House of Representatives addressed to the chairman of the session, its rapporteur, and members of the conference.

The message includes the House's appreciation for the aforementioned parties' concern for safeguarding the sovereignty, freedom, and independence of the member states of the Nonaligned Movement. The House of Representatives' message also includes clarification of some facts related to the Yemeni issue. Among these are facts related to the deep roots of the Yemeni unity in the history and culture of our people, the Yemeni people's blessing of the reestablishment of the Yemeni unity on 22 May 1990, and the achievement of national consensus of unity during the conduction of the general referendum on the constitution of the unity state in 1991. The message notes that international democratic organizations supervised this referendum.

Within the context of reviewing these facts, the message refers to the elections of 27 April 1993 which were held in Yemen as the first unified parliamentary elections, during which more than 22 parties competed, in addition to the independents. The entire world applauded these honest elections which were held on free, democratic bases. All the parties and organizations, including the [Yemeni] Socialist Party, accepted their results. [passage omitted]

In its message, the House of Representatives emphasized the national constants, chief of which is adherence to unity as the fate and destiny of the Yemeni people. The message says that unity is irrevocable and that there will be no compromise on it.

The House of Representatives appealed to the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference to deal with what is taking place in our country as an internal affair, and to pressure the nonaligned member states which seek to gain a foothold in what is taking place in Yemen, not to interfere in our country's internal affairs, especially since this will escalate the situation and prolong and expand the war.

The House of Representatives asked the conference not to deal with any requests to recognize the claims of the secessionists and rebels because this will be against the Yemeni people's will, interference in their internal affairs, and a contribution to escalating the conflict in the country.

House Letter Requests UN Not To Discuss Crisis

JN0106074094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The House of Representatives has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the president and members of the UN Security Council.

The letter expressed the House of Representatives' appreciation for the Security Council's positions and its concern about the protection of the independence and sovereignty of nations. It also expressed the hope that these stands will be further bolstered when the Security Council reviews the internal Yemeni developments that have to do with the essence of preserving its sovereignty, security, and independence in line with the Constitution and the laws in force.

In its letter, the House of Representatives found it strange that the Security Council should address our internal issue by depending on wrong information and outside mediators, despite the fact that our country, an active UN member, has not filed a request with the council in this regard.

The letter of the House of Representatives explained that Yemen—land and man—has experienced eternal unity in its history and culture. There are no ethnic or religious minorities in Yemen. Yemeni unity, achieved on 22 May 1990 and hailed by the Arabs and the world, is the unity of two political regimes, not two different peoples. The unity was achieved by peaceful and democratic means. The agreement on the proclamation of the Yemeni Republic and the Constitution of the unity states was signed by the two presidents of the two former regimes and endorsed by the two houses of parliaments in the former two parts.

The letter notes that the first national consensus on unity was achieved when a public referendum was held on the Constitution of the unity state in 1990. International organizations attested to the integrity of this referendum. In the first unified parliamentary elections on 27 April 1993, more than 22 political parties and organizations, as well as independents, took part. The entire world attested to the integrity of the elections. All international organizations and commissions that care about human rights, primarily the United Nations and the five Security Council permanent member states, blessed these elections. Also, all political parties, including the Socialist Party, recognized the results of the elections. After the elections, Yemen moved from the legitimacy of merger through political agreement to the legitimacy of unity through the constitutional and legitimate institutions. Thus, regional representation was canceled when the first unified House of Representatives convened on 12 May 1993, in accordance with the Constitution that stipulates that the members of the House of Representatives represent the entire people and look after public interests, and not individuals.

The letter of the House of Representatives to the UN secretary general and the president and members of the UN Security Council added: Following the elections, the Republic of Yemen entered a new experiment in government. A coalition government was formed, including the three major political parties: The General People's Congress, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and the Socialist Party. This coalition adopted a document that was called the Document of Government Coalition. It asserted an adherence to national principles, including the preservation of unity as a question of sovereignty that is not to be infringed upon. The unity state adhered to democratic practice in accordance with political pluralism and freedom of expression. In this state, different views and programs were aired in the service of society in line with modern foundations, based on total respect for human rights.

In its letter, the House of Representatives further explained the constitutional status of the formation of the unity state and its institutions. It then reviewed attempts to circumvent constitutional legitimacy and democracy in the country and undermine the unity state by a rebellious gang that defied law and order and chose violence by exploding the military situation to implement its scheme that aims at fragmenting unity and undermining the nation's determination.

The letter noted that when this gang found that the outcome of the 27 April elections was not in its favor and did not advance its fortunes to occupy top posts in power, they started to contemplate a coup against constitutional legitimacy by creating crises and triggering explosions and assassinations and disrupting security. Then, they caused the political and economic situation to become tense and confused democracy by setting new conditions and demands with the aim of canceling constitutional legitimacy. The leader of the rebels, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, refused to submit to the Constitution and the laws and regulations of the country as a vice chairman of the unity state, so he did not complete the constitutional measures. This is in addition to hindering the work of the state institutions through their participation in power by staying in Aden, the commercial and economic capital, and their sabotage of these institutions.

Despite all of the above, the legitimate authority of the country adhered to dialogue, with the participation of national forces and political parties and organizations. As a result of this dialogue, an accord document was signed in Amman. However, no sooner had the document been signed than the rebels exploded the military situation in Abyan.

The chapters of the conspiracy reached the peak on 21 May 1994 when al-Bid declared secession in a serious, illegitimate precedent. Al-Bid wanted to form a state from a homeland that has a unified origin, culture, creed, history, and language.

The letter added that the House deems this declaration null and illegitimate, based on Article 1 of the Constitution of the Yemeni Republic. Based on this Article, the House of Representatives deems any recognition of this secessionist declaration by any side, state, or organization as an attack on the Yemeni people's right of national unionist belonging.

In its letter, the House of Representatives also asked the UN secretary general and the president and members of the Security Council to deal with what is happening in our country as an internal affair in line with Article 2, Paragraph 7 of the UN Charter and to reject any request to discuss the Yemeni issue unless it is filed by the Government of the Yemeni Republic. The letter also asked the UN secretary general and the president and members of the Security Council to pressure the member states of the United Nations and the Security Council which seek to have a foothold regarding what is happening in Yemen so as not to interfere in our country's internal affairs because this would further complicate the situation and prolong the war.

Planning Minister Addresses Envoys on UNSC Debate

JN3105164894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry's conferences room today, brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, met with the heads of brotherly and friendly diplomatic missions in Sanaa. During the meeting, Dr. al-Iryani spoke about the situation in our country and its developments. He said: We are eager to meet with members of the diplomatic corps in Sanaa to brief them on the Republic of Yemen's stand toward previous cease-fire appeals and the subsequent move at the UN Security Council. I believe that parties to any war anywhere in the world appeal for cease-fires. There is nothing strange in that. What is peculiar in Yemen's case is that such cease-fire appeals do not offer an adequate solution to the other party. In other words, everyone says: Stop fighting, but they do not give any guarantees to prevent the resumption of fighting. The farthest such appeals could go was to say: Stop fighting and resume dialogue. Our colleagues in the diplomatic corps in Sanaa are familiar with the nine-month crisis. During that period, we did not stop dialogue. Yet, appeals say: Stop fighting and resume dialogue. If any guarantees are made at all, what about the aftermath of the cease-fire?

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said: You all remember that a few days after the beginning of clashes, an Arab League delegation came and met with the brother chairman. The brother chairman told them: If you obtain guarantees from the other side that they will not harm unity, legitimacy, and the unity of the Armed Forces, we will halt fighting. When it left Sanaa, the delegation was supposed to hold contacts with the other side to secure those guarantees. However, no sooner had the delegation arrived in Cairo than the mass media began to say that Sanaa rejected a cease-fire. Moreover, the Arab League delegation that visited Sanaa has so far said nothing about what the other side said about the required guarantees for cease-fire or for halting fighting in such a manner that maintains unity and constitutional legitimacy, or whether they have made any guarantees for ensuring the results of the April elections. Those were the conditions that were conveyed to the Arab League.

Dr. al-Iryani said: During my recent visit to Saudi Arabia, I met with the custodian of the two holy mosques. We requested good offices within the framework of the same conditions that were conveyed to whoever appealed for a cease-fire. At the end of our discussions, I felt that there was readiness to exert all possible efforts. The custodian of the two holy mosques proposed a temporary cease-fire on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. I carried the proposal to Sanaa. After elaborate discussions, a three-day cease-fire on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha was approved. That was the most visible evidence that when Sanaa is asked to cease fire for a logical reason, this only leads to a bigger problem than the fighting itself. Sanaa responded to that request.

Addressing the heads of diplomatic corps, brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani continued: You all are aware that days—or rather hours—after that, al-Bid declared secession. He foiled that attempt, which could have served as a 72-hour chance for good offices to secure the guarantees that we had demanded and to make sure that the cease-fire would hold. Therefore, the first to abort any serious cease-fire attempt were the secessionists, for they do not want to cease fire.

The brother minister of planning and development added: What is new about this crisis is that it has become of topic of interest to amateurs in international law. Some say: No unity is imposed by force. I ask: How was the Yemeni unity achieved? Did it take place four years ago through mutual consent or by force? Two days ago, al-Bid acknowledged that the unity took place through mutual consent. Now it is said that we are going to impose unity by force. Such are the views of international law amateurs. I remind you that we fought in 1972 to impose unity by force. Then, it was the right of every state to object to imposing unity by force. In 1973, the north wanted to impose unity on the south. In the 1979 war, it was the opposite; the south wanted to impose unity by force on the north. Then, every state had the right to oppose imposing unity by force. But unity now has been achieved and approved by the Yemeni people. The Constitution of the new state has been approved through a referendum. Legislative elections were held and the world testified to their fairness. Yet, we are asked not to impose unity by force. By all standards, this calls for amazement. To say that Sanaa wants to impose unity by force calls for amazement. The demand for new unity formulas is a foreign rather than a Yemeni demand. The secessionists themselves have declared secession. So, why the talk about a new unity formula? They demand a new unity formula, while the secessionists have already declared secession.

He added: Suddenly, the Security Council moved. I would like to affirm that the republic respects international organizations and their charters and abides by all legitimate resolutions. I believe that even at the peak of crises, we did not hesitate to comply with pertinent resolutions although we had reservations about them. I said that we had asked the Arab League to provide guarantees to us complying with legitimacy, the existence of the Republic of Yemen, international law, and rules pursued in any unified state in the world. However, the Arab League disappeared completely. We heard nothing from them, until the issue appeared at the Security Council. Our objection to raising this issue at the Security Council proceeds from the Paragraph Seven of Article Two of the UN Charter, which says that nothing in this charter justifies UN intervention in any state's domestic affairs. The UN Security Council's move, as we heard, proceeds from Article 34, which says: The Security Council is entitled to identify any conflict or any position which might lead to international altercation or dispute. This is in order to decide whether the continuation of this dispute or position may jeopardize international peace and security. Thus, the Security Council has the right to identify, but not to debate and decide. It must determine whether what is going on in Yemen is a source of threat to international peace and security. However, we are amazed to hear that what is being proposed is a draft resolution regarding which even Yemen has not been consulted or advised.

Further on al-Iryani's Remarks

JN3105210194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpts] At the Foreign Ministry's meetings hall today, brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, met with the heads of the diplomatic missions in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Iryani added: Yemen's position on this issue is that it regards what is taking place in Yemen as an internal affair and that the Security Council is not entitled [to discuss this]. At the same time, since the move began at the Security Council, we have not said that we categorically reject any resolution issued. We cannot say in advance that we will accept any resolution issued. We adhere to this opinion, and we do not want to have differences with this international institution. However, it is our right to [word indistinct] and to have doubts about the reasons behind raising this issue. We have the right to say that this is the beginning. No one, however, knows what is the end of this new discussion of an internal Yemeni problem.

Al-Iryani continued: Thus, the Yemeni leadership decided to send a Presidential Council member and the justice minister to the United Nations to explain Yemen's viewpoint on this internal affair and to stress that the Republic was established on genuine bases according to the international law, that both the declaration of the Republic and even its timing were made in consultation with the United Nations, and that the foreign ministers of the two formerly independent states which merged into one state, the Republic of Yemen, signed all [word indistinct] statements at the United Nations and for the members of the diplomatic corps. [words indistinct] we signed all statements and decisions and [words indistinct] unity on the ground, so he later said: [passage indistinct] once again asserts its [word indistinct] and commitment to the international charters and the UN Charter by legitimate decisions. We cannot at all have difference with the Security Council. However, we have the right to express our viewpoint and not to accept interference in our internal affairs. I reiterate this [words indistinct] and that we have the right to say that interference in our internal affairs is not permitted according to the UN Charter.

Brother al-Iryani added: As for the principle of a cease-fire, I assert that we appreciate and respect everyone who demands stopping any war anywhere in the world. However, [word indistinct] any war has conditions and [word indistinct]. The reasons for this war and the intentions of the rebellious side should be known. It is clear that the intention of the rebels was secession. Did [words indistinct] the secessionists to cease fire know in advance that [word indistinct] want secession and at the same time they demanded a halt to fighting? We leave this question for the (?future).

Foreign Minister on Cease-Fire, UN Intervention

NC2905161494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwah has said that Sanaa does not reject a cease-fire, but does not accept one based on the imposition of secession. Secession is impossible, he said.

In statements following his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majd today, Basindwah said that as a condition for ending the fighting between Sanaa and Aden, legitimacy and the Constitution must be the standards. He stressed that all Yemenis defend unity and reject separation.

On 'Ali Salim al-Bid's request that south Yemen's Arab League membership be restored, Basindwah said the Arab League secretary general stressed to him that the request has no standing.

The Yemeni foreign minister denied that Iraqi or Sudanese forces are fighting alongside the Yemeni forces in the north. He said the southern allegations in this respect are false. Sanaa does not need fighters; it is Aden that needs additional forces, he said.

Basindwah said he informed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid of the latest developments in Yemen.

He said events in Yemen prove that the "secessionists" cannot establish "their alleged state".

He said the head of the alleged state has fled to Hadhramaut, and will flee abroad from there.

He accused the southerners of providing shelter to world terrorist leaders, notably Marcos [name as received] and Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna].

Asked what Sanaa's position will be if the UN Security Council passes a resolution on the Yemeni crisis, Basindwah said: We oppose any interference in the crisis by the Security Council because this is an internal affair.

If the Security Council issues a resolution, he said, then we will react according to the situation.

Southern 'Dignitaries' Meet With Sanaa Official

JN0106062694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, member of the Presidential Council, has met with representatives of notables and dignitaries of the al-Hadah Subdistrict in Yafi' District [in southern Yemen], who came to Sanaa to stress their support for constitutional legitimacy and readiness to confront all secessionist attempts, as well as their belief in Yemeni unity as the destiny of our people.

The dignitaries expressed their absolute rejection of al-Bid's secessionist declaration, noting they had suffered for 27 years from the domination of the Socialist Party and that it was time to be free from this despotism.

The brother member of the Presidential Council thanked them for this attitude, stressing the importance of vigilance and decisive opposition of all the secessionist who have threatened unity, spilled blood, attacked property, refused to submit to the people's will to let them choose their own rulers, and did not acknowledge the peaceful transfer of power.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani also noted the great victories scored by our valiant army on all axes of the fighting. He called for a unified rank, mobilizing all popular and official capabilities, to support the Armed Forces and ease the effects of striking residential areas in Sanaa and other governorates by the gang of apostasy and secession.

Al-'Attas Seeks Support for Independent South Yemen

PM3105155494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 May 94 p2

[Interview with Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, "former Yemeni prime minister and current prime minister of the government declared by 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Aden," by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo on 26 May]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] What are the most important results of your visit to Cairo?

[Al-'Attas] During my meeting with President Husni Mubarak, I sensed full understanding, particularly in connection with ending the fighting, reviving the dialogue, and concern for the interests and rights of the Yemeni people. I sensed the same thing during my meeting with [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid who understands the minute details of the Yemeni crisis and the attempts to resolve it.

[Abu-Husayn] Why did you apply for Democratic Yemen's membership of the Arab League?

[Al-'Attas] We have asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to rectify the situation and restore it to what it was before, that is South Yemen as it was before May 22 1990. We are a state already in existence and we do not require fresh recognition but that state should be treated the same way it was treated in the past, as an independent state. Unity, from the day it was declared to just a few days before the infighting started, was not achieved in real terms. Now we are trying to regain our positions. Numerous crises similar to the Yemeni crisis have been settled along the same lines we are following now but we need Arab supporting efforts before any Western positions are taken.

[Abu-Husayn] As it is the intention of the south to secede and return to the pre-22 May 1990 situation, on what basis would dialogue be restored between you and the north?

[Al-'Attas] As a dialogue between two presidents, 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to discuss the problems resulting from the war, Yemeni-Yemeni relations, mutual recognition, and Arab-Yemeni relations.

[Abu-Husayn] How do you view the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's call on the Security Council to discuss the Yemeni crisis?

[Al-'Attas] Our view is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is our neighbor and is affected by what takes place in Yemen, a matter which prompts it to take every possible stand to bring an end to the current fighting. We welcome and support that call, and we are fully confident that it will produce positive results. If the Security Council passes a cease-fire resolution, then both sides must comply. In the event of a violation by either side, there is Article 7 of the charter which could mean sanctions or direct intervention.

[Abu-Husayn] What if Western and Arab states refuse to recognize Democratic Yemen and reaffirm the importance of unity between the two parts?

[Al-'Attas] I say again, we do not need new recognition. We are trying to regain our place at the Security Council, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and all international bodies. What is this unity that the north is now claiming and talking about? The north was the side which declared the secession and is emphasizing in practice that it wants annexation of the south to the north, not on a basis of unity.

Furthermore, since the war began, the northern leadership has taken several secessionist measures, including dismissal of southern ambassadors and ministers, and it incited the fundamentalists to kill them. I personally was the target of many attempts. All this forced us to take the step of declaring the [southern] republic particularly, as there was no full merger into a unitary state, and there were political practices combining the state with the tribes, a matter not stipulated in the Pledge and Accord Document and something which the northern leadership insisted on doing.

Aden Official: 'Barbarous' Offensive Will Fail

EA3105204194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, has issued a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden, on the military offensive being mounted by the forces of the rulers in Sanaa against the sovereignty of our country, the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY]. He said in the statement: We had been expecting such an offensive, which reveals the despair of the rulers of Sanaa, in that they are making an attempt to draw the attention of the world to battles and destruction, instead of to peace. The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council expressed confidence that this barbarous offensive against peaceful villages must fail and collapse, noting that the rulers of Sanaa would fail to realize their aims. Brother al-Jifri noted that the attackers had mounted a broad offensive on all fronts, using in their vanguard the good sons of Yemen, whom they have misled. He said: We were expecting this attack—our forces had been waiting for it and are heroically repulsing it, inflicting great losses of life and material on the enemy. The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council reassured the sons of our people that the enemy had not, and would not, achieve the aims of his attack. Our forces, with their air, naval, and ground arms, are capable of protecting the territory and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council said that, during the past two days, a number of false claims had been put about, to the effect that Aden airport had been shelled and destroyed by artillery. The sons of our people all know that this is just an empty claim. He said he thought that the allegations would persist for another couple of days or longer, but that victory is our ally and God is on our side, because we are the victims of aggression.

Ramadan: U.S. 'Nervous Statements' Reflect Isolation

JN3105183094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that U.S. officials' nervous statements reflect U.S. isolation at the UN Security Council and the fact that U.S. misleading tactics have been exposed after the development of the stands of most UN Security Council member states and their calls for raising the issue of lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

During a meeting with a delegation from the Tunisian commission for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq under 'Izz-al-Din al-Shabi, the vice president added: America's agents and slaves from among Arab and other rulers are suffering the same isolation. He stressed that the children of Arabism will avenge their nation and will punish those who turned Arab land, waters, and wealth into tools to strike at great Iraq and its independent revolutionary course.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the blockade will be terminated thanks to the will of the Iraqi people, who set an example in willpower, patience, jihad, and construction. He praised the genuine pan-Arab stands of the Arab people in Tunis and everywhere in the Arab world. He commended their endorsement of the causes that Iraq has volunteered to defend and paid immense sacrifices for their sake.

'Izz-al-Din al-Shabi praised President Saddam Husayn's brave leadership, which has become a beacon exposing agents and traitors. He stressed the free Arabs' love for Saddam Husayn because his excellency has become a symbol of the Arab love for freedom, independence, and progress and rejection subordination and colonialism.

Allied Use of Facilities Protested to Arab League

JN3105135494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (INA)—Iraq has protested the facilities that are still being provided by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to American, British, and French aircraft. A letter sent by Iraq's permanent Arab League delegate to the League's secretariat noted that the facilities extended to the aircraft violating Iraqi airspace pose a threat to the security, sovereignty, and national unity of the country.

From 17 to 23 May, these aircraft mounted 372 sorties, having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's League delegate asked that copies of the letter, which detailed the violations, be circulated among the member states.

U.S. Aircraft 10-20 May 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN2705121394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] New York, 27 May (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations against the continued violation of its airspace by U.S. aircraft on reconnaissance and provocative missions.

In a memorandum addressed yesterday to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative said the U.S. aircraft conducted 698 aggressive sorties over many areas in the country, in addition to other provocative flights and dropped flares during the period 10-20 May.

Spy Plane 'Violations' Noted

JN2805093994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0816 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] New York, 28 May (INA)—Iraq has protested the continued violations of Iraqi airspace by a U.S. U-2 spy plane on the pretext of conducting air surveys for the Special Commission.

In a message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraq stressed that this plane, having flown from its base in Saudi Arabia, violated Iraqi airspace on 25 April and 11 and 24 May. After overflying vast areas of the country, it flew back to Saudi territory.

The message restates that this plane is used for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council and that its activity harms Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Reportage on PUK-KDP Clashes, Negotiations

Clashes in Irbil Reported

JN3005175694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpt] Irbil—Regrettably, sporadic armed clashes took place in some quarters in Irbil on the evening of Sunday, 29 May 1994. As a result of these clashes, a number of people from both parties [the Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK] were killed or wounded, some houses were damaged, and wheat fields in the northern and eastern quarters of Irbil were set ablaze, inflicting huge losses on the owners of these fields.

The leadership of both parties, the KDP and PUK, issued a joint statement in which they called for an immediate cease-fire. The events were contained thanks to the intervention and efforts exerted by all parties, including the Operation Room and the joint security committee in Irbil. [passage omitted]

Parties Fail To Achieve Cease-Fire

NC3005191194 Paris AFP in English 1702 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Ankara, May 30 (AFP)—Rival Iraqi Kurdish factions met in Silopi, southeast Turkey, on Monday [30 May] but failed to agree on an end to their month-long clashes in northern Iraq, Kurdish sources said.

Officials from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) emerged from the meeting near the Iraqi border, organised by Turkey, without making any comment to journalists.

But Kurdish sources said the officials failed to make any progress in efforts to halt the fighting which has claimed more than 100 lives since the start of May and split northern Iraq into PUK and KDP-controlled zones.

Tehran Radio said Monday that thousands of Kurds had fled their homes amid renewed fighting in Qal'at Dizah, al-Sulaymaniyah, the Hajj 'Umran region of Halabjah, near the Iranian border, and in Irbil.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control since it was established with the help of the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi occupying forces out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Delegations Discuss Security

NC3105174494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpts] A delegation from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and a delegation from the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] held a meeting Monday [30 May] evening at the PUK Political Bureau headquarters in Irbil. Ahmad al-Jalabi, president of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, which was characterized by a cordial and brotherly atmosphere and a high sense of responsibility, the current situation in Kurdistan in general and the security situation in Irbil in particular were discussed. At their one-hour meeting the conferees stressed the need to maintain calm and security.

Barzani Denies Asking Iran To Mediate in Fighting

JN3105184194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 May 94

[Report by Huda al-Husayni from London]

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], has told Radio Monte Carlo that the fighting between his party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] under Jalal Talabani is the result of the differences in viewpoints on how to tackle matters, particularly how to run Iraqi Kurdistan and settle political issues.

Barzani said that Talabani's forces occupied the Parliament building on 3 May as coupists usually do as the first step. Barzani denied reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard are fighting on the side of his forces. He also denied that he has asked for Iran's mediation. He said that it was Talabani who asked Tehran to host a meeting of the leaders of the warring Iraqi Kurdish parties.

Mas'ud Barzani also stressed that no one in Iraqi Kurdistan has prevented Talabani, who is in Damascus, from returning to his headquarters, and that on his request the allied forces military coordination office placed a helicopter at his disposal to bring him to Kurdistan. However, Talabani changed his mind.

Barzani accused the PUK forces of killing all civilian and military prisoners who belong to the DPK.

In his interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Mas'ud Barzani admitted that the fighting has weakened the democratic process in Kurdistan and has not enhanced the status of Iraqi Kurds in the eyes of the western countries. On the contrary, the fighting has embarrassed some of these countries. He emphasized the need to stop the fighting.

Iran's Support for Islamic Movement Criticized

NC2805050794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1626 GMT 27 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The terrorist group, the so-called Islamic Movement, thought that through the use of weapons it could generally obstruct the liberation march of our Kurdish people, and in particular, harm the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and isolate it from its masses. In order to implement its aggressive plan against the just aims and aspirations of our people, this terrorist group, the so-called Islamic Movement, a few months ago resorted to the policy of creating crises and establishing the necessary grounds and atmosphere for wicked plots and plans against our people, which they prepared outside Kurdistan. But it was the Almighty's will that the true face of this terrorist group be exposed to our Kurdish people. This group did not value the lives of the people of Kurdistan. It directed its guns against the innocent people in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Raniyah, Halabjah, Klar, and other Kurdistani cities.

In view of this foolish action, the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in cooperation with the angry people, chased the members of the Islamic Movement and drove them out of Kurdistan. The crimes committed by the fighters of this so-called Islamic Movement are in flagrant violation of the principles of human rights which Islam has strongly defended. What we regret are not the actions of this group, but we are sorry to see a country like the Islamic Republic of Iran supporting such a terrorist group and directing it to kill the children, women, and old people of Kurdistan. Kurdistan has always looked to the Islamic Republic for assistance and support and expected it to treat Kurdistan at least as it treated the Muslims of Bosnia and not to interfere in its internal affairs. Kurdistan never expected it to go against the will of its people through a terrorist group which was rejected by the masses of Kurdistan long before it started its wicked plots and plans. This terrorist group has proved its failure and inability to find any popular base in Iraqi Kurdistan and inability to win the sympathy and support of the people. The aims of any political party rejected by the masses are doomed to failure, because the attitude of the masses is the proper criteria for the suitability of any political party.

Our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan thought that the success of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the defeat of the oppressive Shah regime would be good for them, because they believed that the Islamic Republic, having has ended an oppressive regime like that of the Shah, could not stand against the will of oppressed peoples who yearn for freedom. We thought defense of the oppressed people was one of the important principles the Islamic Republic of Iran believes in, and our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan is one of the leading oppressed nations in the area which deserve support and assistance. Any military action against our Kurdish people is tantamount to siding with Saddam Husayn and his dictatorial regime against the aspirations, desires, and aims of the Iraqi Arab and Kurdish people, the Iranian people, and all the peoples in the area.

Iranian Dissident Assassinated Near Baghdad

NC2905163694 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Nicosia, May 29 (AFP)—Gunmen in a taxi shot dead an Iranian dissident in an attack north of the Iraqi capital on Sunday, Iran's main armed opposition group said, blaming Tehran for the killing.

The People's Mujahedeen, in a communique sent from Baghdad, said Seyeed Ahmad Sadr Lahijani, a 35-year-old member of the group, was shot in the head as he drove his car through Ghalebieh, 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the capital.

The Iranian Embassy in Baghdad was behind the attack, it charged.

Interior Minister Meets Jordanian Counterpart

JN3105195894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May (INA)—Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan today met with Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, who is currently visiting the country.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan praised the Jordanian people's genuine pan-Arab stand and brave support for the Iraqi people to thwart the conspiratorial schemes designed to harm the glorious Arab nation and Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

The Jordanian interior minister voiced the support of the Jordanian people and leadership for the proud Iraqi people against the unjust blockade.

Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad arrived in Baghdad this morning on a three-day visit aimed at bolstering relations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Sahhaf Confers With Counterparts in Cairo

Holds Talks With SRV Minister

JN3105140194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the head of Iraq's delegation to the Non-Aligned conference met with Norodom Sira, the foreign minister of Vietnam [name and title as received] here today.

Mr. al-Sahhaf indicated to the Vietnamese minister a shift favoring Iraq in the UN Security Council. He also noted that more permanent and nonpermanent members of the council, as well as the international community, are demanding an end to the sanctions. Al-Sahhaf further noted that Iraq was complying with the obligations stipulated in Security Council resolutions.

Al-Sahhaf impressed on the Vietnamese minister the need for the Council to honor its obligations to Iraq. He hoped that when the council next reviews Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions, it will take a fair and clear-cut stand leading to the lifting of the sanctions. The two ministers also talked about relations between Iraq and Vietnam.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cairo reports that the Vietnamese minister renewed his country's support for removing the sanctions as a matter of urgency. The Vietnamese Government and people, he said, view Iraq's performance under more than three years of the sanctions with pride and admiration.

The two ministers also reviewed the agenda of the Non-Aligned conference, which opens tomorrow, both agreeing on the need for the movement to be strengthened and its principles upheld.

Iraq's permanent Arab League delegate attended the session.

Meets DPRK Foreign Minister

JN0106081394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1438 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Nonaligned movement meetings met here today with Kim Yong-nam, North Korean vice premier and foreign minister.

Al-Sahhaf explained to the Korean minister the progress in Iraqi-Security Council relations in light of Iraq's full implementation of its international obligations. He expressed deep satisfaction as a result of the progress in the positions of some Security Council permanent and nonpermanent member states on lifting the siege.

Kim Yong-nam hailed Iraqi steadfastness in the face of aggression and blackmail, and expressed the belief that the United States will fail in its objectives against Iraq.

Receives Yemeni Counterpart

JN0106105694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, head of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], met here today with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

Basindwah explained to al-Sahhaf the plots being hatched against Yemen's unity with the aim of undermining the people's achievements.

The Yemeni minister stressed his country's rejection of any interference in its domestic affairs by any party because what is happening in Yemen is an internal affair and because the legitimate authority and the people are determined to preserve unity and to side with the constitutional government to foil the objectives of the separatists.

For his part, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf reiterated Iraq's firm position in support of the legitimate government in fraternal Yemen and preserving its unity.

During the meeting, they also discussed the current Arab situation, ways of enhancing joint Arab action, and the items on the agenda of the nonaligned meeting in Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Ambassador Meets With Russian Duma Chairman

JN2705122894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the Russian Duma—the Russian parliament—received at the parliament in Moscow yesterday the Iraqi ambassador to the Russian Federation.

At the outset, the ambassador expressed Iraq's gratitude for Russia's recent position at the Security Council and its demand that the blockade be lifted, stressing the need to develop this position to lift the unjust blockade on Iraq. He noted that Iraq has implemented all Security Council resolutions.

The Iraqi ambassador briefed Rybkin on the situation in Iraq and what Iraq has done to implement Security Council resolutions, stressing the need for the Security Council to fulfill its own obligations, lift the blockade, and end the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi ambassador also handed the chairman of the Russian parliament a detailed memorandum on the social and economic effects of the blockade on the life of the Iraqi citizens after four years of its enforcement. He explained how this is affecting their health situation, noting the large increase in the mortality rate of children and the elderly. He also said that the blockade has had adverse effects on many countries, primarily Russia, and that these countries have incurred great losses as a result of the blockade.

For his part, Ivan Rybkin stressed that the Russian Federation and the parliament are ready to use all means to lift the unjust blockade and take part in international and parliamentary conferences to lift the blockade and end the suffering of the Iraqi people.

He also expressed his happiness and desire to host a delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly, led by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the assembly speaker, to discuss relations and ways of enhancing them between the two friendly countries and peoples.

Japanese Party Delegation Holds Talks, Departs

JN2905172994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA)—Masatu Okita, the higher adviser of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [name and title as received], and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a visit to the country lasting several days at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly.

In a statement to INA, Masatu Okita voiced his happiness over visiting Iraq and described it as constructive and fruitful. He said that the visit would promote friendly relations and cooperation in parliamentary and party areas in the two friendly countries.

The Japanese delegation held talks with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and several state and party officials. They also visited health centers in the country and became acquainted with the acute shortage of food and medicine as a result of the unjust economic blockade.

Expatriates Conference To Open in Baghdad in Dec

JN3005100794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Iraq will organize a conference for Iraqi expatriates in Baghdad in December. This conference will discuss issues of concern to the expatriates in various fields.

The Expatriates' Affairs Department was created at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 May 1994, following the Council of Ministers' approval. [passage omitted]

Saddam's Motives for Changing Government Analyzed

NC0106082294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] There has been a new episode in the continuing farces of Baghdad rulers: Saddam Husayn fired Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn and his government. In a dictatorial decree, he appointed himself prime minister. Through this ploy, Saddam is trying to blame Ahmad Husayn and his ministers for the suffocating economic and social crises from which the Iraqi masses are suffering.

But this farce means nothing to the Iraqi citizens; it can never mislead the Iraqi people. As president, Saddam Husayn has failed to find any solution to the problems of the Iraqis, problems caused by his own wrong policies. How then can he, as prime minister, save the Iraqis from their tragedies and ordeals? Apart from this, the Iraqi citizen knows full well that Saddam Husayn is the source of all power in Iraq: the legislative, executive, and judicial. No power in Iraq can implement a law, make a decision, or pass a ruling without Saddam's approval. The law of force prevails in Iraq, and Saddam is its source.

If Saddam enjoys absolute power to do whatever he wants—or, indeed, if he is the sole source of power—then why did he want to take the premiership for himself? Is it because Saddam Husayn has a brain capable of saving the Iraqis from the plights and tragedies that he himself created? We believe that there are many reasons behind Saddam's decision to take the prime ministry for himself. These reasons, we believe, have nothing to do with the failure of this or that ministerial group to address the economic situation. These reasons include the following:

1. The lack of confidence between Saddam Husayn and his closest allies in the government.

2. The desire not to allow any government or party official to remain in a post through which he may [words indistinct]. In this context, we can mention Sa'dun Hammadi, Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, and Ahmad Husayn. They all served as prime ministers but were sacked by Saddam Husayn within less than four years.

3. An attempt to delude the Iraqi people into thinking that Saddam Husayn is not the sole reason behind the deterioration of the economic and social conditions in Iraq.

4. The blunder and [word indistinct] in the top ranks of authority and the need to remove from power the regime officials who are not from the ruling family. This is probably the strongest of all the reasons. Here, we must recall the accusations leveled by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn against the regime's ministers, ambassadors, and diplomats in one of his articles in BABIL in March. The article was full of criticism injected with threats against the ministers. 'Udayy accused the ministers and the diplomats of negligence and incompetence. He branded the ambassadors as brokers and traders in carpets and female journalists. He underestimated the standing of people in most of the regime's ministries. That (?article) was the first step in removing many regime figures whom Saddam did not like to see in power. At that time, we explained 'Udayy's threats as the first step in a plan to remove many officials from sensitive posts in the regime's institutions to allow the ruling family to interfere in the most minute details in the life of the Iraqi citizen.

Surely, if things continue like this, the regime's Council of Ministers, the Revolution Command Council, and all important posts will be distributed among Saddam Husayn's relatives and henchmen. At any rate, we think that this move is too late. Saddam's attempts to save the dictatorial regime from collapse are doomed. They will not negate the fact that the regime has been turned into a defective body moaning under the yoke of its deep wounds and drawing its last breath.

Saddam Visits Vegetable Market, Discusses Prices

JN3105195194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Early this morning, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, inspected the al-Rashid fruit and vegetable market in the al-Dawrah area in Baghdad. To examine the prices of agricultural products and the reasons for their rise in price, his excellency held detailed discussions with those in charge of marketing offices. In an objective and candid dialogue, those concerned reviewed their ideas and experiments in this field.

The leader president listened to their observations, views, and proposals for curbing the high prices of fruit and vegetables and for easing their adverse effect on citizens' lives. His excellency said that the extent of price hikes is unjustified, and that marketing outlets can play a fair and national role at this period in time when the children of our proud people are suffering from the effects of the unjust blockade. He said that marketing outlets should be satisfied with a profit margin that pleases God and all parties, and contributes to achieving contentment, psychological stability, and reassurance on all levels. He said that profits should be within reasonable limits, and not at the expense of others' misery and suffering and [word indistinct] calculations. He said when the citizen deals with others, he should take into consideration the calculations of the society as an entity with common sentiments and fate. This is because, he added, high prices harm the citizen and expands to harm the entire society, God forbid.

His excellency stressed that the blockade will founder, God willing, against the Iraqis' firm patience and steadfastness which has drawn worldwide admiration.

Meanwhile, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, greeted the children of our people, who shouted "long live the president." They stressed absolute confidence in his excellency's leadership of the march of jihad and construction and defense of glorious and steadfast Iraq, the Iraq of beloved leader Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Orders Examination Monitors' Fees Raised

JN3105135294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Chairing the first session of the cabinet, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the fees of monitors at general examination centers be raised to 50 dinars per day. This was disclosed by Minister of Education Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz to the Iraqi News Agency. This generous act on the part of his excellency the leader president, al-Bazzaz said, is another addition to his numerous such favors in support of a superior educational process. The move doubles the educationists' responsibility to carry out their monitoring duties in the test centers so as to raise a generation armed with science and faith.

In the name of the teaching profession, the minister promised His Excellency leader, mujahid President Saddam Husayn that efforts will be maximized to enhance the scientific and educational standard and quicken the pace of the march of advancement Iraq is experiencing in all domains.

Government Intervention Against Speculators Urged

JN2905125594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 May 94 p 2

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "More on the Internal Blockade"]

[Text] In any talk about the blockade, it is essential to make a distinction between two types of blockades. The first type is the one being imposed on us by the evil enemies, which is still continuing due to a declared U.S. decision. The second type is an internal blockade being imposed on us by a handful of brazen, capricious, and parasitic retailers and illegal profiteers. Four years of external blockade have proven beyond any doubt that we can resist this type of blockade and confront it with more patience, unity, and creative, productive work. We have rejected every morsel, no matter how tasty, that has been dipped in the poison of humiliation and degradation. In fact, we have proven that we are stronger than the plan of starvation, impoverishment, and blockade despite its pressure and harshness.

Since the pressure of the internal blockade is greater than that of the external blockade, we call for government intervention to protect us from these savage beasts that keep gnawing at our flesh, sucking our blood, and breaking our bones without so much as a batted eyelid or feeling any sense of remorse over national patriotism and responsibility.

We are not being unfair to these illegal profiteers when we say that what they are doing complements the feverish U.S.-Zionist efforts against the freedom, dignity, unity, and will power of our people. It is sufficient to see the clear harmony between the hike in local prices and the reports being broadcast by the Voice of America and the BBC on the blockade.

I cannot claim that I have an idea about the measures that should be taken by the government to protect the people from these greedy merchants, but it has become essential and urgent for the government to intervene in order to deter these merchants and put an end to their activities. We do not doubt for one single moment that its intervention will be the best means to block enemy wagers and evil designs.

Rabin: No Room for 'Arafat Jerusalem Visit Now

TA3105155194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 May 94

[Report by Knesset correspondent Tamar Asalem]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel would not determine the final withdrawal line at this point, and that this is holding up the negotiations with the Syrians.

[Begin Rabin recording] The Syrians are demanding that Israel step forward and say what I allegedly told President Mubarak [that he is ready to effect a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights], and then negotiations would start at once. The negotiations are being withheld because we did not say such a thing either to the Syrians or to Mubarak. We agreed to a withdrawal, but we did not determine its final extent; we did not set the final border.

Second, a timetable extending over several years.

Third, a combination—the first phase of the withdrawal, which must be small, must be rewarded by full normalization.

Fourth, security arrangements. [end recording]

Rabin listed his priorities before the committee members: Jerusalem above everything, certain areas in Judaea and Samaria, the Golan Heights, and finally Gaza. There are certain areas in Judaea and Samaria that I consider more valuable from the security and historical point of view than the Golan Heights, he said.

Turning to the Palestinian issue, he noted that there is as yet no dialogue on the next phase, although there is a commitment to this effect. You could say that in Gaza there was a withdrawal, while the term applying to other territories is redeployment, the prime minister remarked. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, the prime minister said that at this stage he sees no room for a visit to Jerusalem by 'Arafat, but that he could not make any commitments about what will happen in another two years. [passage omitted]

Another issue raised in the session was the building of a dividing fence on Gaza's northern boundaries. Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu demanded that such a fence be built to create a security zone north of the autonomy. [passage omitted]

The prime minister explained to the committee members that such a fence could not be built at this point due to budgetary constraints.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 31 May notes that "Prime Minister Rabin is quoted in the committee as confirming that Israel has been mapping out where the self-rule institutions in Jerusalem are located, but he also conceded that legally Israel may not be able to act and that new legislation may be necessary."]

Rabin Curtails Palestinian Activities in Jerusalem

TA0106101594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Amira Segev]

[Excerpts] Over the last few days, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin decided on a series of measures to curtail Palestinian national activities in Jerusalem, thus heeding the recommendations of senior security elements to set "red lines" for the activities of the Palestinians in the eastern part of the city.

Rabin decided that Israel would henceforth bar the establishment and operation of political Palestinian bodies in Jerusalem. He ruled that only the Israeli Police is authorized to maintain security and enforce the law and that consequently the activities of Palestinian security bodies in the city should be prevented.

The prime minister instructed Israel Police and security elements to meticulously monitor what goes on at Orient House (seat of the Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem) and immediately terminate any illegal activities detected in the place.

After being briefed about the activities of the Palestinian rejectionist organizations in East Jerusalem, Rabin instructed security elements and Israel Police to conduct a thorough investigation into their activities and to close down any institution or body affiliated with them. [passage omitted]

At yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin quoted Faysal al-Husayni as stating in a news conference at Orient House on Sunday that "Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine." According to Begin, "the Arabs claim they were given a commitment to discuss the future of Jerusalem. Knowing Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, I suggest that we believe them."

Reacting to this allegation, Rabin said that "to the best of my knowledge, 'Arafat was given an excerpt of Peres' speech in the Knesset about freedom of worship and free access to the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. Even today, the Arabs are in charge of administering their holy shrines."

A senior PLO official stated yesterday that Israel and the PLO had exchanged official messages about the status of the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. The exchange took place in February, in the final days of the deliberations about the first Cairo agreement.

"We are not talking about a section of the Cairo agreement, but about an exchange of messages signed by the most senior officials on both sides in the final days of the negotiations about the first Cairo agreement," the senior PLO official asserted.

The messages deal with the status quo in Jerusalem in general, and that of the Palestinian institutions in particular. They include a general commitment on the part of Israel to honor the existence of these institutions and to abstain from taking any measures that might adversely affect them. The names of the institutions in question are not cited in the messages.

An urgent debate on the issue was held yesterday in al-Husayni's office at Orient House, with the participation of the directors of Palestinian institutions in and outside Jerusalem and other figures. The participants would not divulge the content of the deliberations or the resolutions adopted. [passage omitted]

Sarid, Olmert on Palestinian Activity in Jerusalem

TA0106111094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Environmental Affairs Minister Yosi Sarid says all Palestinian autonomy offices must be in Jericho or the Gaza Strip. He also said that any PLO presence in Jerusalem must be authorized by Israel. David Ze'ev reports from the Knesset:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid presented the following statement in the name of the government before the Knesset plenum: One, that institutions of the Palestinian self-rule authority will be in the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area, and only there. Two, any organizational activity that is diplomatic or resembles diplomatic activity that relates to Palestinian rule or resembles it in Jerusalem will require the endorsement of Israeli authorities, and each case will be examined by Israel based on the accord with the PLO. And three, there is only one police force in Jerusalem—Israeli, not Palestinian, and security and public order in Jerusalem is the responsibility of the Israeli police force, no other. That would be forbidden and will not be permitted, in Sarid's words. Minister Sarid said he has spoken out against the statements of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the past and is repeating that 'Arafat will have to renew his commitment to the accord in words; more importantly, in actions. But, said Sarid, the situation on the ground is a positive surprise. The Palestinians, he says, are doing their job under the toughest conditions. [end recording].

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says he will do everything in his power to close Orient House. He was speaking in London at a gathering sponsored by the JEWISH QUARTERLY JOURNAL. Jerry Lewis has details:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Ehud Olmert said that Orient House was the headquarters of what originally was the Society for Arab Studies, sponsored by Faysal al-Husayni. However, lately it turned out to be the headquarters of what he says Faysal al-Husayni thought was the future government of the Palestinian state in Jerusalem.

[Olmert] My personal position and my official position as mayor of Jerusalem is that Orient House ought to be closed, and I will do everything I can in my power to close it. The Orient House is acting against the laws of the State of Israel. When it acts to divide the city it is an outright violation of the criminal law of Israel that forbids any action that may jeopardize the status of Jerusalem as the exclusive united capital of the state of Israel. [end recording]

Editorial Urges Closure of Orient House Offices

TA3105103294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 May 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Jerusalem"]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, the autonomy's "minister on Jerusalem affairs," yesterday declared war for Jerusalem. He demands that "status quo" be preserved in the city and vows that Arabs will pursue their struggle for city control. He is not speaking of negotiations, he is speaking of control. Agreements are the last thing on his mind, and he is, as a matter of fact, saying precisely the same things his master 'Arafat did, although he is using more refined phrases.

His remarks are neither baloney nor poppycock. They demand a reaction, an immediate one. The required reaction is clear: The Orient House offices must be closed down, all PLO offices—however they may be disguised or named—must be moved from Jerusalem to Gaza or Jericho, and an unequivocal clarification must be issued—in deed, not in words—that the autonomy will not penetrate Jerusalem, either overtly or covertly.

As far as we are concerned, al-Husayni's remarks, too, are a call for jihad, a jihad without the commentators' smart-alecky interpretations. The only difference between the PLO head and his representative in Jerusalem is that 'Arafat made his remarks in Johannesburg, in what he believed was a closed setting. Al-Husayni dares make his statements in Jerusalem, striving to do it as publicly as possible.

Rabin: U.S. Has Exhausted Its Role in Syrian Talks

TA3105184694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 May 94

[Report by Alon Ben-David]

[Excerpts] What is happening in the negotiations with Syria? Not much. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today dismissed as total nonsense reports that he had told

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that Israel would agree to implement a full withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Rabin was speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Rabin added that in his opinion, the United States had exhausted its role in the negotiations with Syria and expressed the assessment that the talks in Washington would not resume. [passage omitted]

The prime minister opined that the Syrians would not continue the talks in Washington. Incidentally, Mr. Rabin said that the talks held in Washington so far had led to nothing. Rabin also sent a message to the Americans: I believe that Washington has already exhausted its role with regard to the Syrian track, he said. Israel, however, continues to have an interest in occasional visits by Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I am neither pessimistic nor optimistic, the prime minister concluded.

The Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem were also discussed at the session. We are currently preparing a list of all the Palestinian institutions and examining the issue not on the basis of goodwill but rather from the viewpoint of the legal measures at our disposal, Rabin said. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on TISHRIN View of Peace Talks

TA0106155394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich in Washington by Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Professor Rabinovich, can we get a response from you to the report in Syria's TISHRIN newspaper attacking Prime Minister Rabin's remarks that Syria is the one not prepared for a peace accord with Israel; its call on United States to fulfill its role of an honest broker; and that if it fails, the Syrians expect the United States to take partial responsibility for the failure? Have we a ready-made reaction?

[Rabinovich] I do not see the point of such a debate. One of the points of symmetry with the Syrians is that their media is official. When TISHRIN publishes a report or a commentary it can be viewed as a sort of official view. Nevertheless, I still do not think we should argue with the Syrian press or argue whether it is right for the so-called Syrian media to attack the prime minister. I believe that if the Syrian leadership has something to say it can do so on its own.

[Barqay] Then let us argue with President Mubarak, who said that he has a promise from Yitzhaq Rabin to come down from the Golan Heights. His remarks were taped by journalists who met with him. You know the prime minister's response: It is utter nonsense.

[Rabinovich] If you want to bring another element into the issue, then go ahead. In reference to the Egyptian position, the only third element active in the negotiations between us and the Syrians is the United States. You referred to them as a mediator. The U.S. role is not exactly that of a mediator, but rather what they call an intermediary [preceding word in English], because the word mediator implies somebody who makes his own bridging proposals, which is not the case in these negotiations. Egypt is not a mediator between us and Syria, and does not act as an intermediary, therefore the Egyptian Government cannot have a deep knowledge of what is taking place in these negotiations.

[Barqay] I understand. Now tell me, are the Syrian negotiations really stuck?

[Rabinovich] The negotiations with the Syrians are not moving at this moment. The secretary of state is prepared to come to the region once more, but he is not prepared to come for nothing. The main diplomatic activity in Washington at present is in an attempt to find out if there is any purpose in the secretary coming. The address is first and foremost Damascus. The Syrians must make it clear that there is a point to an additional mission to the region by the secretary of state. The harsh reaction by TISHRIN can be attributed to the Syrian feeling that there is a general conception that the ball is in their court and they are trying any way they can to get it across the net.

[Barqay] What will move the negotiations, which are deadlocked, along? What will make one of the sides move forward?

[Rabinovich] In reference to the TISHRIN report, it can immediately be discerned that it is a legalistic and formal approach, which states that Israel must first implement the UN resolutions and give its representatives a commitment, etc. That approach is legalistic and formal and not one for political negotiations. Political negotiations are talks between two sides who want to reach a joint purpose, who present their interests and outlooks, and then together—sometimes with the assistance of a third party, which in this case is the United States—take note of the points where their outlooks, starting positions, and interests meet. That is the fertile ground where negotiations can progress. What the Syrians must do is move away from the mentality of a legalistic approach and take a practical political approach to the negotiations.

Rabin's Disdain for Democratic Institutions Seen

TA2705155094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "A Yo-Yo in the Land of Monkeys' Uncles"]

[Excerpts] State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat's reply to Rabin's question, "Who is she to squawk about the PALMAH [prestate underground]?"—"I am the state comptroller"—is totally irrelevant. Who is she to tell Rabin who she is and what her job is? Who is she to speak of good manners and tell him that a man is as good as his style? Had the Wild West used tongues instead of guns, Rabin could have been our own Gary Cooper or Clint Eastwood. [passage omitted]

Despite the impression of army camaraderie projected by expressions such as "if pigs could fly," "I don't give a damn," or "If that is a settlement, then I am a monkey's uncle," so frequently used by Rabin, there is method to his madness, to paraphrase Shakespeare. Proof: We have never heard Rabin use offensive names for Arye Der'i, for instance. Der'i is the man who encouraged Peres to break up the unity government, and yet the term "foul maneuver" was attached to Peres. Not a bad word about Der'i—either then or today—although he has been giving Rabin a hard time, sending him like a "yo-yo"—Rabin's term for other circumstances—back and forth to 'Ovadya Yosef.

You will not hear Rabin thrash out at former generals, even when they are his sworn political enemies. Yet wherever Peres is involved, Rabin shoots off his mouth indiscriminately. He invented the term "suits" for Peres' aides. "Peres is selling historic processes for the price of a newspaper headline," Rabin says about the man "who has never served in the Army." Beilin the poodle [term used by Rabin in a radio interview] is sometimes referred to as one who acts "brainlessly" and at other times as one suffering from "a loss of brains." Rabin must find it infuriating to realize that he is treading the path beaten by that group and even speaking their lingo (and referring to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] as the "occupying army"—God in heaven!). Who are they to tell him what to do and how to speak?

Rabin is a blend of suspiciousness—everyone is after his head—and a sense of arrogance of a man who knows everything better than everyone else. That is the reason he is sometimes the commentator and at other times, the state comptroller. He speaks of "chatterboxes" in the context of discussions on stock exchange taxation, and complains that "the finance minister is mushily pondering new national priorities." Being certain that everyone is after his head, everything is personal with him: He disqualifies the contender, rather than the bone of contention. Everything is "baloney," everything is "bull."

Not only is he unable to take criticism, he is mainly unable to take alternative opinions. He has trained his ministers and aides to acquiesce to a degree unheard of even in the days of autocratic Ben-Gurion and Begin. People are afraid of his tongue. And we get goose pimples at the thought of how decisions are made in our country.

As time went on, all the independent bodies and authorities got on his nerves. For Rabin, the justice minister has long since become anathema because he routinely sides with the law. Rabin coined various phrases to denigrate the legal establishment's independent status. He speak enviously about the PLO, which will be able to rule Gaza "without the High Court of Justice and Betzelem." He does not miss an opportunity to scourge the Histadrut labor federation, which he considers to be the source of all his troubles (and recently, of his mistakes as well). He compares the trade unions to Islamic terrorism and yearns for Singapore, "where there is no Histadrut and no nonsense." Rabin is particularly enraged by the independence of Knesset committees. He terms the Finance Committee "one of the sewers in which government decisions are stuck." He considers television to be a yellow media: "Do people pay their fees for this?" almost amounts to a call for civil disobedience. The overt deprecation of independent bodies, especially those aimed at setting limits and defining what is permissible and what not, has gradually resulted in a "Nixonian rule" in the Prime Minister's Office, which considers itself to be an imperial structure disconnected from all the other power structures, and whose main aim is self-preservation.

What one perceives at the present time is an extremely pressured Rabin. Perhaps Rabin is beginning to suffer from the syndrome of the leader who senses he has reached a dead end. This is not the first time: Only Menahem Begin, as leader of Herut, was able to give up the entire Sinai and to demolish settlements in exchange for a breakthrough in the peace process with Egypt—after which he exhausted himself. Only Rabin, with the security aura attached to his name, could recognize the PLO and 'Arafat and implement autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. Perhaps, however, Rabin—like Begin at the time—has made all the concessions he is capable of or wiling to make. Perhaps deep down inside he knows that he has exhausted his potential. This is why he is coming down on everybody like a yo-yo in the land of monkeys' uncles.

Rabin Style Defended, More Action Urged

TA2905105794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 May 94 p 9

[Commentary by Daniyel Bloch: "No Crisis and No Nothing"]

[Text] Last weekend's press was preoccupied mainly with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's utterances. Only a few writers addressed matters of substance. Rabin has never professed to be the consummate diplomatic speaker Abba Eban is, or the speech purist that Shim'on Peres is. For better and for worse, one of his most prominent qualities is the harmony of his mouth with his heart. He says what he thinks. Literati will define it as credibility, and it was because of his credibility that he was elected to his position both in Labor primaries and in the national elections. He is not going to change in his eighth decade, and despite all the criticism leveled at him, I have not detected any strong public nostalgia for his predecessor, Yitzhaq Shamir, who was not an Abba Eban disciple in the mysteries of diplomacy either. Likewise, I sense no ardent longing for the predictable leadership of Binyamin Netanyahu, and no walls moved at the news of the prospective participation in the premiership race of Ari'el Sharon, who—with his typical tact—chose the period of memorial days for the fallen of the Lebanon War, that unnecessary war, to make his announcement. Another candidate who has announced his intentions, Refa'el Eytan, is not famous for dainty speech either.

True, the state comptroller reminded us that a man is as good as his style, but the style is affected by the job. Style required of a judge or a state comptroller is not equal to that expected from a Knesset member; ministers' and politicians' style is not expected to emulate that of teachers and rabbis. In some positions, we expect officials to conform with a certain style, and if they do not, they should be ousted. In some elected positions, all we can do is put the elected official's deeds, misdeeds, and style up for the electors' scrutiny once every few years.

It is doubtful whether many of the prime minister's political supporters disagree with his approach to matters of substance, with the exception of one. The only matter on which many sense Rabin went too far in style as well as content was his blatant criticism of the state comptroller. But do many people think Netzarim is a genuine settlement, one so important that it must not be removed at any cost, under any conditions? Does Netzarim contribute to national security, or is it a burden on the security forces? Of course, Rabin could have phrased this sentiment differently, but no refined expression would have changed the substance. And do many people, including right-wing supporters, believe the vagrant yeshiva in Jericho's Rachel's Tomb is important? The fact that Hanan Porat, the national martyr, sits there rolling his eyes heavenward, bestows no sanctity or religious significance on the site. Does every mosaic in Eretz Yisra'el automatically call for a yeshiva and the deployment of security forces in the defense of every fanatic drawn to it? Is there such a dearth of yeshivas and synagogues in the country that holy studies can be held only in Jericho? And since when is Jericho a holy city, and who has lifted the ancient ban on it?

The prime minister provided the media, which has to fill pounds of paper for the weekend press, with topics. But their alacrity was exaggerated in most cases. It is too soon to mourn the Rabin government or draw its balance sheet, although it will mark two years in office in six weeks. It should be said in the prime minister's credit that so far, he has carried out the main objective he undertook when he was elected: He has promoted the peace process. In domestic and economic spheres, insufficient results of the declared intention to change national priorities are discernible, but there are signs of improvement in several fields. There are signs of certain growth and of falling unemployment. There have been important developments in the spheres of foreign trade and investment. Serious steps were made toward infrastructure development. The pace is inadequate, and more should be done. But bureaucracy gets in the way, and Treasury officials, the "Fogels"—one of the prime minister's most justified verbal coinages—often act as if the Likud was still in power, exploiting the finance minister's frequent preoccupation with other matters.

In the near future, we would expect the prime minister to do more and to decide on many issues that were delayed during the negotiations with the Palestinians. We hope he will decide on the next health minister today. If there is any truth to the rumors that Rabin's candidate is Efrayim Sne, then it is an excellent choice, both for the health and the political systems. The 50-year- old Sne is member of the younger Labor party generation, and he is undoubtedly an asset in many fields. His appointment would be a precedent of the right man getting the right job, and we hope it will bode well for the future. If Rabin decides to appoint another minister so as to maintain inner balance, the candidate will be apparently Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who has made a long way from his "poodle" days. The choice is undoubtedly difficult, but high-ranking positions will await the other candidates in a not- too-distant future. Many would like to see Avraham Burg as Zionist Federation chairman and Hagay Merom as party secretary general. In the meantime, the prime minister must decide also on his nominees for cabinet secretary and media adviser. These key positions must not be left unmanned for long. Rabin must highlight his national and partisan leadership with more than blunt and stern utterances; he must do it by deed—in Jericho and Netzarim, as well as in the government complex in Jerusalem and the Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv.

'Sources': 'Arafat Constitution Plan Accord Violation

TA2705150894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 94 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's response yesterday to the report about a "Palestinian constitution" drafted by a French jurist at the request of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was one of derision. "It is all talk, just like the radio program," Rabin said.

On the other hand, senior political sources in Jerusalem said that preparing the constitution is " 'Arafat's gravest violation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement so far," and that Israel's policy will be to make sure the Palestinians "stick to the letter" of the agreement. Political elements in Jerusalem are highly embarrassed by Rabin's speech on Wednesday in which he mocked 'Arafat and described as utter nonsense the PLO head's remarks about a Palestinian state and Jerusalem.

Rabin's abrasive reaction and his responses of "utter nonsense" and "it is all talk" were viewed as ignoring the steps 'Arafat has taken so as not to lose public support for the agreements with the PLO. The prime minister is expected to clarify his position today, and to stress the importance with which he views adherence to the spirit and letter of the agreement.

Senior security sources, headed by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, and the Shin Bet head, recently called on the prime minister to make sure the Gaza-Jericho agreement is assiduously adhered to by the PLO and to react sharply to any violations. They warned the prime minister that if Israel ignores minor violations, the agreement might erode and Israel's security and citizens might be harmed.

A senior Israeli defense source said "we must insist on strict adherence to the agreement in the security field, and not permit anything that deviates from the terms of the agreement. We must be tough with them on every detail of the implementation." The same source warned that "the implementation will involve security and civilian problems, but the security aspect is more worrisome, therefore standing firm on security demands is the most important aspect for Israeli society."

He said that if the Palestinians do not institute reasonable security and effective control of Gaza and Jericho, Israel will be forced "to take a complementary series of steps to manifest our responsibility." Another senior element said in internal consultations that if the PLO has the will it can fulfill its commitments under the agreement despite the difficulties it is facing. Nevertheless, there might be violations, whether due to a deliberate policy by the Palestinian leadership or due to difficulties in understanding and coordination in the field.

Various security sources said in internal deliberations that the Palestinian leadership's activities in the Autonomy must be thoroughly overseen to make sure it does not foment an intifadah in the Jerusalem and West Bank areas remaining under Israeli control. The security sources stressed in particular the need to follow up on the PLO's promise not to harm collaborators in the territories.

Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Yo'el Singer, who played a crucial role in drafting the agreement with the PLO, reacted sharply to 'Arafat's reference to jihad and his announcement to annul the military government's decrees in the territories. Singer called 'Arafat's action a violation of the agreement and said Israel has the right to respond with a violation for each violation, which is legitimate under international law.

"Our ability to react under the law is almost limitless," Singer said in internal consultations. Security elements in contact with the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho however believe it is premature to evaluate the PLO's ability to implement the agreement, and an additional test period is required to learn the agreement and create understandings that will enable its implementation. Sources in the field believe that hitches in implementation are unavoidable at such an early stage.

Shin Bet Kills Hamas Fugitives North of Jerusalem

TA3105163794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitives were killed this afternoon in the village of al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, during an operation by the Shin Bet and the Israel Police special antiterror unit.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one of the two men killed was Yusuf Naji, the murderer of the late Shin Bet agent No'am Kohen. As may be recalled, Naji was a former collaborator with the authorities and Kohen was his handler.

In the course of a meeting, Naji and his accomplices shot No'am Kohen and his two bodyguards. No'am Kohen died as a result of the shooting and the Shin Bet has been conducting a manhunt after Naji ever since.

IDF Imposes Curfew on al-Ram

TA3105192794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this evening imposed a curfew on the village of al-Ram north of Jerusalem after serious disturbances broke out following the shooting of two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

Palestinian sources report that at least four residents have been wounded by IDF gunfire in today's clashes.

Bureau Says Palestinians Not Recruiting Fatah Hawks

TA3005110794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 May 94 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] The prime minister's bureau yesterday denied that members of the Fatah Hawks had been recruited by the Palestinian police. The announcement came in reaction to a complaint submitted by the "View Toward Peace" [Mabat Leshalom] organization.

The bureau's announcement came in the wake of an investigation conducted by Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', head of the Israeli team at the joint security committee.

The communique stated that the Palestinians had said that the candidacies of all applicants to join the Palestinian police were brought before the committee.

The Palestinians also asserted that the Fatah Hawks had not been recruited but had only been concentrated in one location pending a decision on their future.

Israeli-Palestinian Police Cooperation Described

TA2805070594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 20 May 94 pp 14, 15

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] "Salaam 1 to Salaam 2, how are you doing, over and out."

"This is Salaam 2. All is well. What do you want?"

"Salaam 2, overtake me, we are entering a road under Israeli jurisdiction. According to regulations, you are supposed to lead the joint patrol on this road."

"Salaam 1, thank you. Am overtaking, follow me. Over and out."

This conversation in Arabic was held over the "peace" network in northern Jericho Tuesday [17 May] morning.

Salaam 2—an Israeli Border Police patrol jeep, and Salaam 2—a patrol jeep of the PLO's al-Aqsa Brigade—jointly patrolled road No. 90 from Jericho to al-'Awja'. The conversation was received in the joint PLO-Israeli operations room located on a military base in the Vered Yeriho junction, and was duly logged by the Palestinian duty officer. The same conversation was received in the al-Aqsa Brigade operations room in Jericho and the Border Police company's operations room in the Vered Yeriho junction.

The Salaam 2 jeep was commanded by a Border Police subinspector. Three policemen occupied the back seat—two from the Border Police and one from Israel Police. They were carrying M-16's and wearing bulletproof vests. An orange flag—the joint patrol's emblem—was flying on the jeep's roof.

The Salaam 1 jeep—a khaki-colored Palestinian Toyota—was occupied by five solders and a lieutenant. Their appearance was much less uniform. The driver wore light khakis, the officer and three soldiers—olive drabs. Each had different shoes on. As for the fifth soldier, he wore camouflage and a red beret. They were all cradling Kalashnikov rifles in their arms. Just like the Israeli jeep roof, theirs had an orange flag, but also a large Palestinian flag.

This week Jericho looked as if the messiah had already come. Yesterday's enemies were now pals. A peaceful honeymoon seemed to have followed the cross, grating wedding in Cairo three weeks earlier. 'Arafat and Rabin are cross, but in Jericho, Palestinian and Israeli soldiers—perhaps still in shock at the first encounter—managed to cooperate this week. And quite well, too.

Inspector Salah Khatib, a Galilee Druze Border Police officer, is the Israeli commander of the joint operations room. "I never dreamed of such a situation. The same man, who could have been at the other end of my gun a few days ago, is now sitting next to me. We shake hands. We have coffee together. We work in full cooperation. I am really enjoying every moment. Although it has not been long, there is a feeling of real friendship. We feel as if we have been working together for a long time."

Lieutenant Jum'a Marwan from the al-Aqsa Brigade is sitting next to him. He, too, is beaming: "Thank God, we are sitting together after 40 years of enmity. It is a dream. Sitting together in the same room with an Israeli officer, working on a joint security task—it's a dream. We spend many hours together. We eat together. We talk. We cooperate like brothers. I hope all the agreements signed by Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will materialize."

So far, thank God, there have been no serious events to put the cooperation to a test. This idyll (or nightmare for pessimists) may evolve into a crisis soon enough. There are enough friction points both in Jericho and Gaza. A stone thrown at a Na'ama settler's car, hitting a child, or gunfire at a Qatif Bloc settler's car are an example of real-life events. Not to mention the formidable land mine created by the Shalom 'Al Yisra'el synagogue. By the way, the fuse of this Jericho bomb may have been ignited this week.

The settlers came to the site carrying weapons. The Palestinians fumed. "They cannot bring weapons to prayer in a synagogue," Jericho military commander, Isma'il al-Hajj, grumbled. Faysal al-Husayni warned that the Hebron event is liable to recur in the Jericho synagogue. Under the agreement, an Israeli may carry licensed weapons when entering autonomy territory. "The agreement does not state that armed settlers may enter a synagogue," al- Husayni told the U.S. secretary of state, asking for his intervention.

But the settlers remained adamant. To their dismay, the agreement limited their presence at the synagogue to the time between 0900 and 1800, in a group not exceeding 30 worshipers. This week they demonstratively ignored the Palestinian soldiers. "We will not obey their orders," they declared.

The security cooperation was the result of the need to imbue complicated agreement clauses with content. The security responsibility distribution between Israel—which is in charge of foreign security, settlement security, and the security of Israelis—and the Palestinian authority—which is in charge of internal security and public order enforcement in autonomy territory—requires close cooperation between field soldiers.

To enable that, the sides established the JSC [preceding abbreviation in English], the Joint Coordination and Cooperation Committee, in which officers exchange information and guide the three DCO's [preceding abbreviation in English], the District Coordination and Cooperation Offices, which have been set up in Gaza, Khan Yunus, and Jericho.

The three coordination offices operate 24 hours a day as joint commands. The offices guide the joint patrols and the joint stationary patrols.

Patrols are carried out 24 hours every day along autonomy roads used by Israelis and the length of the shore opposite the Qatif Bloc. The joint patrol includes an Israeli jeep and a Palestinian jeep. The patrol is led by an Israeli vehicle on roads under Israeli jurisdiction and by a Palestinian one on roads for which Palestinians are responsible.

In addition, six joint mobile units have been deployed in the Nisanit junction, Netzarim junction, Kfar Darom junction, Sufa-Morag junction, Vered Yeriho junction, and in the vicinity of the Elisha' Nahal Brigade presettlement in northern Jericho. These units are the alert force.

The operations room of the Jericho regional coordination office at the military base near the Vered Yeriho checkpoint was inaugurated last Friday. "Authorized Personnel Only," its door says.

The trailer is partitioned into three sections: the Israeli command room, the Palestinian command room, and the joint operations room between these two. Two officers—an Israeli and a Palestinian—sit behind a large desk. The table accommodates a telephone, a radio, logs, and maps. The wall features a large 1:200,000 map of the autonomous areas. The map is in Hebrew and Arabic. The main traffic axes are prominently marked in purple. Another wall features a chart of the joint radio network in Hebrew and Arabic. "Salaam" (peace) is this extensive network's code name. All the checkpoints around Jericho, the Allenby Bridge, the joint patrols, and the troop commanders are linked up to it.

A list of duty officers and aides hangs on another wall. On the day we visited, the lists said: On the Israeli side, patrol commander is Lt. Amir, on the Palestinian side—Lt. Hisham. Stationary force in Elisha': Israeli Lt. Bini and Palestinian Lt. Ashraf; in Vered Yeriho, Palestinian Lt. Anis and Israeli Lt. Dash.

Lt. Hani 'Iyad is sitting in the Palestinian operations room. He says his family are refugees from Zefat. He is quick with a smile, plump and bespectacled. The East Jerusalem daily AL-QUDS lies on his desk. Two soldiers sit on a bench in the corner next to him. They hold Kalashnikov rifles. "I have served in the Palestinian army since my youth many years ago," he says, then turns away to listen to a report on the radio network.

"Where are you from?" he asks. "From YEDI'OT AHARONOT," we reply, and he laughs. "I am familiar with it, you know. I read your newspaper. Even in Iraq, we used to get translations of your newspaper."

[Shaqed] How is the joint work with the Israelis going?

['Iyad] Very well, thank God. There is no wall between us. We eat together, drink together, sit together. How are the Israelis? Ordinary people. They received us as a matter of course. Our coordination is built on understanding. We have not trained together yet, we are merely starting our cooperation. Regarding joint training and exercises, you should ask the command. I do not have the authority to answer that.

[Shaqed] What are your open-fire orders?

['Iyad] The matter is clear to us. Any problem that arises should be solved quietly and amicably. Like brothers. In the Israeli areas, the solution of problems is up to the Israeli jeep, while in the Palestinian areas it is up to our jeep. God willing, there will be no problems. We have received orders to solve problems quietly and amicably. [end 'Iyad]

The Palestinian soldiers working in the regional coordination office are still accorded the "full board" treatment, which includes meals in the Israeli mess hall. The Palestinians have somewhat of a problem in this respect. They have a dining room in the administration building. Cooks, too. But they have no food. Funds pledged to the policing force have not arrived yet. In the meantime, Jericho residents are the suppliers of food and meals. A 16-member committee representing various major local families was established in the city to collect donations for the al-Aqsa Brigade. During the first week, they received free gasoline from a local gas station owner.

Colonel 'Ofer is the Israeli commander of the Jericho regional coordination unit. The Palestinian side is represented by Brig. Gen. Sa'di Naji, deputy commander of the al-Aqsa Brigade. A civilian-clad Brig. Gen. Naji secretly arrived in Jericho a week prior to the evacuation. He spent the nights at the home of 'Abd- al-Karim Sidar, the Fatah chief in Jericho, who briefed him about the city and its problems. He spent the days with Col. 'Ofer and other senior officers. He studied the roads, the various problems of the Jericho area, coordinated various necessary issues, and prepared the patrol troops induction. The preliminary preparations helped the joint force to perform efficiently from its first hours.

Col. 'Ofer: "There is a lot of goodwill on both sides, great willingness to listen, hash things out—a definitely positive spirit. No social ties, though. We are two different sides, and we are here to do a job. No joint training is scheduled and none has been done so far."

Brig. Gen. Sa'di Naji is wearing a red beret and commando shoes. There are no decorations or emblems on his uniform, just a small metal Palestinian flag on his chest. He has a small two-way radio and a red attache case. He drives around Jericho in a Mercedes 230 loaned by a city resident, who has volunteered to chauffeur him around: "The synagogue is the most sensitive friction point we have in Jericho," he says as we drove to the site. When we got there, about 30 settlers, including Knesset Member Hanan Porat, were inside. The settlers ignored him almost completely. It was Brig. Gen. Naji's first-ever encounter with settlers. He, too, seemed to be experiencing a kind of a first-encounter shock. He made an effort to focus on security problems. "They are here in accordance with the agreement. I hope they are here to pray, not to stage a provocation. I further hope the problems will be solved through persuasion."

Brig. Gen. Naji was astounded to see weapons on the settlers' shoulders. Captain Muhammad Lutfi, the Palestinian security officer at the synagogue, did not exactly know what the instructions were. "The settlers are armed. I must be given instructions. Should they be allowed in with their arms or not?" he asked. A brief conversation with Col. 'Ofer solved the problem. "According to the agreement, they are allowed," he told his PLO counterpart.

The first mini-friction occurred last Friday. A group of 10 Kakh members snuck into the synagogue after dark. The Palestinian soldiers summoned the joint patrol which evacuated the Kakh men from the area. Procedures worked. However, the real tests still lie ahead.

The joint patrol makes its way along Route 90 on an average of once every half an hour. The Palestinian vehicles occasionally change. Their car pool is still small, and consists of 10 Toyota and 8 Land Rover jeeps. The Land Rovers were given them as a gift by King Husayn when he bid farewell to the soldiers two hours before they entered Jericho. On the first day of the joint patrols it was the Israeli jeep that had problems. The Palestinian officer knew something about mechanics and helped repair it.

Moshe, a blue-uniformed Israeli policemen, regularly takes part in the patrols: "I do my job according to instructions, exactly by the book. The feeling is good. Personal relations have not yet emerged but, in my opinion, personal relations are not necessary in this job. They are serious in their attitude. They know how to speak on the radio in order to conduct the patrols properly. In this respect, they know their job."

We met Wa'il Muhammad Subhi in the Palestinian jeep. He comes from Kafr al-Labad near Tulkarm. He left the West Bank in 1967 and joined the Palestinian Liberation Army. As soon as he gets his first leave he will visit his relatives in the village. At the moment, his wife and four children are still in Jordan. After three days of joint patrols Wa'il Muhammad manages to see the half-full cup: "We ate together, we smoked cigarettes together. It is 70-80 percent all right. We talked. They asked us about our past. We do not frighten them, and they do not frighten us. If only it remains this way."

IDF Releases 73 Gazans From Prison

TA3005185794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 May 94

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today released 73 Palestinians prisoners who live in the Gaza Strip. Local Gazans are furious over the small number of people released and claim this is a violation of the Cairo agreement. Israel has so far released 2,000 prisoners, whereas it undertook to release 5,000 in the agreement. [passage omitted]

U.S. Policy on Radical Islamic Regimes Criticized

TA0106115394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by Tzvi Bar'el: "What Counts Is That They Were Legally Elected"]

[Text] President Mubarak, King Husayn, King Fahd, the presidents of the five Muslim republics in the former USSR, and Yasir 'Arafat have a problem. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake recently issued a new dictum, whereby the U.S. administration would be prepared to cooperate with radical Muslim regimes as long as these were elected in democratic elections.

Although Lake and his aides did not use the words "fundamentalist regimes," they were primarily referring to extremist regimes rather than countries such as Saudi Arabia which has long been embraced by the United States. Lake did not specify the characteristics which would meet U.S. criteria, which led to a great deal of confusion in several Arab countries.

"I guess they mean well, but somehow they manage to hurt their friends," says an Egyptian official. "At a time when Egypt is beginning to prove its ability to fight fundamentalist terror, the United States displays an incomprehensible tilt toward extremist elements. What should President Mubarak infer from such a policy? Should he call off the elections for fear that the extremists might score more votes? Is that a signal to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Israel to undermine the PLO's authority and to count on the support of the United States when it is elected?"

A White House official explained that the United States was getting ready for a possible scenario in Algeria, whereby the Islamic Salvation Front topples the regime (or, at least becomes a prominent part of it) if and when new elections are held. At present, such a possibility seems the only way to end the daily killings (a total of 700 fatalities since March) and to maintain some kind of order in a country that on the verge of general collapse.

Hence, in view of its experience with Iran, the United States decided to build a positive policy toward the regime it foresees as rising to power in Algeria. However, this would seem to provide a solution to one part of the Arab world and pose a serious problem to another part of it.

On the face of it, the new policy would seem to contain some logic, or at least a wish to secure U.S. interests. There is no Arab country that does not have to cope with, is not governed by, or does not share power with extreme Islamic elements to some extent or another. On one end of the scale lies Iran, on the other lie Syria and Iraq, and in the middle lie Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, the Gulf states, the five Muslim republics in Central Asia; in fact, every Arab country with institutions that bear romantic names and shoot innocent people in the name of Islam.

How long can undemocratic regimes curb religious opposition movements which are seeking to install a worldwide Muslim regime but are in the meantime prepared to make do with wrecking the current regimes? Is the United States prepared to come to the aid of every regime seeking to eliminate its religious opposition? Is that possible? These questions featured prominently in various debates held by the U.S. Administration, which was anxious about the possibility that Iran, Sudan, and soon Algeria may be joined by other countries which will not just burn local law books but also the U.S. flag.

U.S. Administration officials realized that if such a scenario came true the United States might be left without any allies in parts of the Middle East and Central Asia, and it is against this background that the new policy announced by the national security adviser can be understood. What remains unknown is the conditions the U.S. Administration set for supporting extreme Muslim regimes.

If the administration intends to support only those Islamic regimes elected in democratic elections it is deluding itself on at least two counts. The only Arab country that has ever held democratic elections is Yemen, which is currently experiencing a tough war and where the tanks will probably determine who will rise to power. All other Arab countries may call their elections democratic, but it is their rulers who determine how democratic the elections or their regimes are. If fundamentalist regimes rise to power, they will most probably follow the Afghan model, which is partially being implemented in Algeria: street fights, guerrilla warfare, sweeping the poor classes, eliminating the intelligentsia, splitting the army, and ultimately seizing power.

The second count is even worse. The administration need only check the results of democratic elections in most African countries and in those Arab countries that hold some kind of elections to conclude that democratic elections do not guarantee democratic regimes. The U.S. Administration actually made clear that only legitimate regimes, however ruthless and corrupt they may be, will enjoy U.S. support. The caveat of democratic elections was merely designed to give a guise of legitimacy to the continued U.S. relations with and support of such countries.

Arab regimes, at least those considered pro-Western, have reason to be upset by this U.S. policy; the Americans have reason to worry that such long-term policy might destroy U.S. interests any time down the line.

Likud MK's, Ministers React to Sharon Announcement

TA2705115294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 May 94

[Excerpts] Most Likud leaders oppose Ari'el Sharon's plans to run for the premiership in the next elections. [passage omitted]

Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Shamir said MK Sharon had better find other occupations more beneficial to the national interests rather than go on with his conspiracies to become the Likud's candidate for the premiership. Shamir added that the actions of Sharon, who always conspired against his superiors, harm the Likud and delight the left-wing camp.

Likud chairman Moshe Qatzav opposes the demand to oust Sharon from the Likud. MK Qatzav told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he supports Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, but proposes to him to establish a joint leadership made up of figures such as Ari'el Sharon and David Levi.

Likud secretariat chairman Yehoshu'a Matza said that through his announcement Sharon had ousted himself from the Likud's ranks. According to Matza, Sharon sows dissent and because of him the Likud was forced out of power.

MK Dan Meridor said Sharon's action was a grave mistake. The Likud has procedures, he said, and there can be no constant rivalry.

Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi said that in order to save Eretz Yisra'el from the PLO's claws the national camp must present one candidate only: the man elected by the Likud. MK Ze'evi called on Sharon to put aside his personal ambition for the sake of Eretz Yisra'el, seeing that he has no chances of winning and that only the left-wing will profit by the split in the right-wing camp.

National Religious Party leader Zvulun Hammer said the squabbling in the Likud has the left-wing camp gloating this morning. Every possible effort must be made to attain a dialogue within the nationalist camp, he added.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 27 May adds: "Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said that to date the Likud had only one candidate unfit to be prime minister, and that from now Likud voters will have two of them.

["Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that one must not forget that 12 years ago Sharon led the country to the Lebanon war, and that we paid a high price for this adventure."]

Sharon Fundraising Abroad for Jewish Settlements

TA2805072994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon continues to fund raise abroad for activities in the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Council for Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip says that MK Sharon recently raised over $7 million abroad and that he intends to go abroad next week to continue the activity. Sharon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the funds he raises are meant for activities in the territories that he charged the government has ignored, including linking up houses to electricity and water systems.

Coastal Aquifer Water Quality Said Deteriorating

TA3105104194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 May 94 p C1

[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]

[Text] "If the salinization and pollution of the coastal aquifer continues at the present rate, the level of water salinity and pollution will by the year 2018 be such as to render 25 percent of the aquifer water impotable, while the salinity rate of over 50 percent of the water will be above the maximum recommended level." This is one of the findings of a report prepared by the Water Commission's Hydrological Service, due to be submitted to the Knesset's State Audit Committee today.

The coastal aquifer is Israel's largest reservoir containing about 400 million cubic meters of water—about one-fifth of the entire water quantity produced annually in Israel. In recent years, annual pumping from that reservoir stood at some 360 million cubic meters. The anticipated deterioration is the result of a rising nitrates concentration and from the salinization rate.

The report indicates that the coastal aquifer has been undergoing gradual salinization, and even today, about one-tenth of the water pumped from the reservoir (about 32 million cubic meters) comes from drillings ("cells") whose salinity rate exceeds 250 milligrams of chlorine to a liter, which is the maximum recommended by official standards.

The coastal aquifer's rate of increase of nitrates concentration is about one milligram to a liter per year. Any nitrate concentration exceeding 90 milligrams to a liter disqualifies the water immediately, because it causes cyanosis in babies.

The report shows that even today, about one-fifth of the entire quantity of water pumped from the aquifer (about 64 million cubic meters) is produced from wells whose water has a nitrates concentration above the allowable norm, while about 60 percent of the water is pumped from drillings which have exceeded the recommended maximum of 45 milligrams per liter.

The report notes that the pollution rate is liable to be much more rapid because the estimates do not account for future changes in groundwater quality.

Commissioner Addresses Knesset on Water Quality

TA0106105394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Water Commissioner Gid'on Tzur says that autonomy agreements could critically endanger Israel's water supply. In a briefing to the Knesset State Audit Committee, the commissioner said the country's water supply could be damaged by seeping sewage and industrial waste from the autonomous regions. He said he believes that Israel should have secured better guarantees for its water rights during negotiations.

Motion on Transfer of Water Sources Rejected

TA0106135494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] The Knesset plenum rejected a proposed bill by Likud Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar that any political agreement that transfers responsibility for water resources from Israel would require the approval of at least 80 MK's. MK Ben-Elisar said that if the water resources are under Palestinian control there is a danger that they will try to dry us up. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the motion was rejected by a majority of one.

Cabinet Approves Plan To Lower Housing Costs

TA2905153994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The government today approved the joint Housing Ministry and Treasury plan to lower the cost of housing. This was after Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer decided not to present his proposal for allocating contractors 51 percent of the land freed in return for building apartments for candidates eligible for mortgages. The government will meet again on Wednesday to discuss Ben-Eli'ezer's proposal. This is aimed at ensuring that contractors winning tenders allocate 25 percent of the land for apartments to those who have the right to Housing Ministry support. Harley Braidman reports:

[Begin recording] [Braidman] The government approved the joint Housing Ministry and Treasury plan of minimum state intervention in construction. The main point of the program is an article relating to the marketing of land. The Israel Land Administration and the Housing Ministry presented a clear detailed plan for marketing 50,000 units annually in the center of the country. Contracts will tie down builders to fixed dates for start and completion of construction to prevent them stocking up on plots. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat was pleased with the government's decision.

[Shohat] We think that we decided about the proper things to do, and I believe that in order to carry out a massive building program we are creating the proper environment to the market to start building. I believe that we made a proper decision. The main thing is that we got clear information about the amount of plots that are going to be sold on the market in order to build houses and this is quite a big number of 50,000 in 1994 and 50,000 in 1995. I think that will reduce the cost of the apartments.

[Braidman] In addition to the 25,000 foreigners allowed in, the government approved 13,000 workers from the territories to return to construction in Israel. Planning procedures will be simplified and infrastructure work speeded up. The government will not return to budgetary purchase of flats nor promise to buy apartments in demand areas. [end recording]

Al-Majali Stresses Support for Palestinian Authority

JN3105161094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Ilyas Frayj, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, who have been appointed members of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], as well as the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Dr. al-Majali stressed to the Palestinian delegation Jordan's firm support for the PNA in its new task in Gaza and Jericho. He emphasized that Jordan views coordination with the PNA as an indispensable need for which there is no alternative.

The Palestinian delegation expressed its great appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and his stands, which reflect the sincerity of his majesty, the Jordanian political leadership, and the Jordanian people toward the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

More on Premier's Meeting With Palestinians

JN3105195694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 31 May 94

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Four members of the new Palestinian National Authority [PNA], which will administer Gaza and Jericho, met Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

The Palestinian delegation included Ilyas Frayj, Zakariya al-Agha, 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, and 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab.

Prime Minister al-Majali reaffirmed Jordan's support to the new authority which will govern Palestinian self-rule areas, and said Jordan's coordination with the new authority is an absolute necessity.

Mr. Frayj said their talks with the prime minister also touched on the makeup of the new authority:

[Begin recording] [Frayj in progress]...with full openness with the prime minister, and we have one strategic aim is to achieve full cooperation and coordination with our Jordanian brothers.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] Have you discussed specifics with respect to the coordination between both governments?

[Frayj] We come here to Jordan to discuss, each one of us, how to do the best coordination with the ministries he is in charge of.

[Al-Sha'ir] When do you expect the signing of the economic agreement between the PLO and Jordan?

[Al-Agha] I expect it will be within the next few days. There will be a visit by Palestinian officials, including Chairman 'Arafat, to Jordan, and all these issues will be discussed and concluded during this visit. [end recording]

Government Ready To Brief House on Peace Process

JN0106115894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that the government is ready to acquaint parliament members with the latest political developments in the region, especially those related to the peace process.

The prime minister was responding to a proposal by a parliament member who called for a special meeting between members of the lower house of parliament and the government.

Dr. al-Majali said the parliament has not previously asked the government for such a meeting, adding that the government is always ready to meet parliamentarians' demands.

The speaker of the lower house Mr. Tahir al-Masri said the meeting will be scheduled for next week. Mr. al-Masri was speaking this morning during a session of the house in the presence of the prime minister and cabinet ministers.

Hasan: Arabs 'Cautiously Optimistic' on Peace

JN0106114394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince has said that Arabs were cautiously optimistic about peace with Israel.

This came in a speech before an annual meeting of the UN agency caring for Palestinian refugees, read on behalf of his royal highness by Minister of State Mr. 'Adil 'Irshayd.

The crown prince said the continued frustrations Arab people have lived over the past two years are regressing now, and are being replaced by cautious optimism that the peace process will continue its march until it reaches a comprehensive solution.

But Prince Hasan added that the feelings of fear and anxiety are still there, referring to unresolved Arab-Israeli issues and agreements signed but never implemented.

Prince Hasan said the UN Relief and Works Agency should continue health and education services until the plight of 3 million refugees were settled in a fair and permanent way that secures their rights in line with UN resolutions.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Meeting

Makes Statement

JN3005061194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Amman yesterday evening to take part in the 17th ministerial session of the ESCWA [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia], which opened its meetings in Amman yesterday.

Upon arrival, the Lebanese minister expressed happiness over his visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He said the Lebanese people cherish and appreciate the Jordanian people and that His Majesty King Husayn occupies a special place in the hearts of all the Lebanese.

He added that during his visit he will take part in the ESCWA's ministerial session, especially since Lebanon is one of the countries nominated to serve as the headquarters for this commission.

On the peace process, the Lebanese minister said that after more than three years since the launching of the peace process and the Madrid conference, this process has not achieved the hopes that had been pinned on it. He asserted that the two cosponsors of the Madrid conference should continue to play an active role in line with the requirements of the Madrid process through the resolutions of international legitimacy and to play the role of a fair broker.

The Lebanese minister noted that he will meet with several Jordanian officials to discuss Arab developments of interest to both countries.

Al-Majali, Buwayz Discuss Ties

JN3005153394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office in the Prime Ministry today Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is participating in the 17th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA, which is currently convening in Amman. The talks dealt with ways to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields, particularly in the economic, trade, and customs fields. They also reviewed the latest developments in the peace process.

In a statement to PETRA after the meeting, Buwayz said he felt full readiness on the part of the prime minister to reach a new concept for Jordanian-Lebanese relations with the aim of developing cooperation and coordination between the two sisterly countries. He said: We, in Lebanon, greatly appreciate the fraternal Jordanian people. We have great interests with Jordan that need to be organized for the benefit of both countries and people. He stressed that the coming stage requires further coordination and cohesion toward the various issues.

Regarding the current Lebanese stand vis-a-vis the peace process, Buwayz said: Now that approximately three and a half years have passed since the Madrid conference, we cannot say that these talks have reached the sought level or achieved the sought results. We cannot also say that the Israeli side deals with these talks in the required way. New problems and challenges surfaced during this period.

Buwayz said: Despite all circumstances, we believe that this peace should be given a chance. We also believe that the Israeli side should prove it is still committed to the principles of peace in terms of its fairness and the implementation of the international resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

Regarding the most prominent developments in the trial of those accused of involvement in the assassination of Jordanian diplomat, martyr Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, which began recently, the Lebanese foreign minister said: It is known that the competent Lebanese departments arrested the suspects moments after the crime was committed. We can say that Lebanese judiciary, which is known for its fairness and independence, will deal with this subject with all seriousness and it has issued the indictment. We have no doubt that the court will issue a fair decision.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, minister of state and acting minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

Buwayz on Relations, Peace Process

JN3005211494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 30 May 94

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali conferred with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz who is in Amman attending the annual meeting of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA. Dr. al-Majali and Mr. Buwayz discussed ways of bolstering relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of economy and trade. They also reviewed latest developments in the Middle East peace process. The Lebanese minister said later that Middle East peace should be given a chance even if nearly three years of Arab-Israeli talks have failed to achieve much for his country. He said the Israeli side had to prove it is still committed to the principles of peace and to implementing international resolutions, including the principle of land for peace.

Buwayz told the News at Ten that Jordanian-Lebanese ties were good and commended Jordan's position toward the peace process as highly credible.

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] If we have to describe our relations, I will say that we have some very good relations, which need to be maybe better organized at the technical, at the commercial, at the economical level. And, I hope, we talked about the possibility of naming a high commission, which will study all the problems concerning this field.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] With respect to the peace process, how do you view coordination with Jordan, and where is Lebanon now?

[Buwayz] I think that Jordan, the Jordanian Government, proved a high level of credibility in the unified Arab position till now. We think that this peace can be only a global peace, real peace, and this ask from ourselves unified position concerning the whole problems of the area. We think that any party, which will try to go very fast, will have to wait for the others because at the end this peace cannot be between Israel and only one party. And nobody in the Arab world can by itself only cover this peace decision. [end recording]

Buwayz Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0106083494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Amman this morning at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan during which he participated in the meetings of the 17th session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA, which concluded its meetings in Amman yesterday.

Buwayz met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and discussed with him ways of fostering fraternal bilateral relations in various fields, especially the economic, commercial, and customs fields. They also reviewed the latest developments of the peace process.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Dr. Fawwz Abu-al-Ghanam, acting minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

Official Says Government Not Taking Sides in Yemen

JN3105104194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 May 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—A senior government official Monday [30 May] reasserted Jordan's neutrality on the civil war in Yemen, saying the Kingdom only supports the unity of the Yemeni people and the quest for a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

"We are with legitimacy in Yemen, with the unity of its land and with respecting the reconciliation accord" which was signed in Amman in February by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his then-Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the Jordan Times Monday.

Dr. al-'Anani said the Kingdom has not taken sides with either of the parties to the conflict, which developed into civil war on May 4. He said the official media's reference to the government in Aden as "the legitimate government" and to the forces of Mr. al-Bid as the "secessionists" does not mean that the Kingdom has sided with Sanaa against Aden.

"Jordan supports the unity of Yemen," he said. It did not therefore refer to the warring parties as north and south because that "would mean you have accepted the secession," Dr. al-'Anani said.

"We will not take a stand against legitimacy and say north and south," he said.

The position of the official media is right. They are calling things by their name because those who declared secession are secessionists," former foreign minister, Deputy Abdallah al-Nusur told the Jordan Times.

Insisting that this position does not mean the Kingdom has taken sides with either of the conflicting parties in yemen, Dr. al-Nusur said "Jordan has a record of not interfering in the internal affairs of any other country."

Though blaming the south for seceding, Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy 'Abd al-Rahim 'Ukur said: "We did not hear any Jordanian official saying the Kingdom has taken sides in the conflict."

Dr. 'Ukur blamed Arab regimes that he said have supported one party in Yemen against the other, adding that "these attitudes only serve the objectives of the United States and its satellite states in the region.

Jordan supports the unity of the Yemeni people and land but does not work to impose anything on them, Lower House of Parliament member Salih Irshaydat said.

If this support of unity was interpreted to mean that the Kingdom has taken sides in the conflict then that is a wrong interpretation, he said.

"We are with unity as long as it is the wish of the Yemeni people," Dr. Irshaydat said.

His Majesty King Husayn had earlier said that the Kingdom will provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen but will not interfere in the internal affairs of the war-torn Arab peninsula country.

North Yemen has previously rejected any foreign intervention in the civil war, which has been raging for over three weeks without leading to a decisive military victory.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali had said that Jordan would not mediate in the conflict unless both parties to it agree on its role, adding that the Kingdom would not "interfere in support of either parties to the crisis."

AKHIR KHABAR Arab daily Monday reported that a group of journalists it did not name have protested to Dr.

al-'Anani what it called "the biased coverage of the Yemeni war by the official media."

The paper quoted the group as telling the minisiter in a statement that such an attitude would not allow Jordan to play any positive role in trying to mediate the conflict in the future.

Al-Majali, Yemeni Official Discuss Cease-Fire, UN

JN3105130394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali emphasized Jordan's firm position on the current situation in the Republic of Yemen and its support for the legitimacy and unity that was realized through agreement among all parties in the sisterly country.

At his meeting with 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Yemeni Presidential Council member, at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning, the prime minister also emphasized the noninterference of Jordan in the Yemeni internal affairs, and Jordan's support for a cease-fire and a halt to fighting.

For his part, 'Abd-al-Ghani said in a statement to reporters that the meeting reviewed bilateral relations, the latest developments in the situation in the Republic of Yemen, and the visit he will make to the United States to attend the Security Council deliberations on the Yemeni crisis—a meeting called by certain countries.

He added: We are always ready for dialogue and diplomatic efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis, and we are always ready to end fighting if the elements that created the situation return to constitutional legitimacy and retract the statement which sought—through armed rebellion—to separate parts of the Republic of Yemen formed on 22 May 1990, and blessed by all Yemeni people.

He added: We believe that discussing the issue at international forums is interference in Yemeni affairs because what is taking place in the Yemeni arena is a purely internal Yemeni affair. He said: What is taking place is a rebellion carried out by some elements of the Socialist Party that forced the constitutional legitimacy to confront it in order to realize security and stability in the Republic of Yemen.

Concerning the alternatives that may be proposed during the Security Council deliberations on this crisis, 'Abd-al-Ghani said the solution lies in resolving the issue in accordance with the constitutional legitimacy that resulted from the elections of March 1993, and—according to testimony of the whole world—were honest, and in which all eligible voters participated.

He added: We ask all brothers and friends to deal with the Republic of Yemen in accordance with the principles of international law which respect the sovereignty of every country, and state that no country should interfere in the affairs of another.

He emphasized that Yemeni unity is an accomplished fact supported by all Yemenis, and added that no one can return Yemen to the situation that prevailed before 22 May 1990.

He also stressed that the danger posed by presenting the Yemeni issue [at the Security Council] is the interference in an internal Yemeni affair. It is a serious step to discuss a subject that concerns a sovereign state and member of all regional organizations and the United Nations and one which is committed to the UN Charter and regional and international charters.

He added: We think that discussing any internal issue in any country is a dangerous precedent because doing so is not stipulated in the UN Charter, especially Article 2 of this charter.

The meeting was attended by Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, acting minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

'Abd-al-Ghani left Amman for New York today. He was seen off by the acting minister of state for foreign affairs and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Paper Urges UNSC To Respect Yemeni Unity

JN3105112794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 May 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Yemeni People's Will Is the Basis]

[Text] Since it was decided that the Security Council was to be convened to discuss the crisis in sisterly Yemen, even though this crisis is an internal issue which the legitimate authority did not ask to have discussed, all countries taking part in the meetings of this international body should respect the Yemeni people's unity, territorial integrity, and legitimacy in Yemen. Otherwise, foreign interference in Yemeni affairs—against the will of its people and government—will complicate the crisis and make it impossible to be resolved.

Sanaa has accepted a cease-fire on the condition that the declaration of secession by Aden be abrogated and the unity of the Yemeni people be preserved. This is an objective, courageous, and responsible position on the part of Sanaa, and one that all Arab countries and international organizations, including the Security Council, should support.

If the interference by some Arab and foreign countries seeks to internationalize the Yemeni crisis in order to encourage and entrench the secession of the south, this is something that conflicts completely with Arab League and UN Charters, and at the same time conflicts and ignores the will of the Yemeni people.

Halting this destructive war and resorting to fraternal and constructive dialogue between the north and the south, rather than the exchange of destructive missiles and shells, is a national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian demand that both sides should accept on the basis of emphasizing legitimacy and national unity, not entrenching secession.

The Security Council is currently facing a difficult test, and we hope that it will adopt just resolutions which respect the legitimacy and unity of the Yemeni people and their territorial integrity, and not encourage the separatist tendency of a handful of secessionists who deviate from the brotherly Yemeni people's will in the north and the south.

We would like to remind the Security Council that UN involvement in resolutions of the crises in Somalia, former Yugoslavia, and other past and current crises did not solve these crises but aggravated them in a more dangerous manner than they had been the case before internationalization.

We also want remind Arab brothers in all Arab countries that unity was the choice of the Yemeni people and the consensus of the leaders and masses in the north and south, and this official and popular choice should not be snubbed.

Qatari Finance Minister Arrives for Meeting

JN2805204794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 May 94

[Excerpt] Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, minister of finance, economy, and trade of the State of Qatar, arrived in Amman this evening at the head of a Qatari delegation to participate in the work of the 17th ministerial session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which is scheduled to open in Amman tomorrow, Sunday. [passage omitted]

Regent, Al-Majali Meet Qatari Minister

JN2905172494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, the regent, received visiting Qatari Minister of Finance, Economy, and Trade Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

They discussed bilateral ties and ways to foster cooperation in various fields.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also received the Qatari minister who is in Amman taking part in the 17th ministerial session of the United Nations Economic, and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA. The session opened this morning.

Dr. al-Majli and the Qatari minister discussed ways of enhancing Jordanian-Qatari cooperation in the fields of economy, industry, and trade.

Segregating Sexes at Sports Facilities Debated

JN3005072494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 May 94 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The segregation of sexes at swimming pools and sports clubs came under scrutiny by the Lower House of Parliament Sunday as deputies discussed the amended youth welfare law, which was turned back to the House by the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) after several amendments were introduced to it.

The House supported the stand of its judicial committee, which insisted on preserving amendments introduced by the Lower House to the Law.

A heated debate took place at the meeting over Clause C of the law's Article 2, which was added by the Lower House, stipulating that the Ministry of Youth shall segregate sexes at swimming pools. The clause was deleted by the Upper House.

The House's Judiciary Committee insisted on maintaining the clause in the law, saying sexual segregation in public swimming pools "conforms with our Islamic values and the deeply-rooted morals of our society."

With some deputies saying it was difficult to segregate the sexes in private swimming pools or on the al-'Aqabah and the Dead Sea beaches, others called for specifying which pools would fall under the provisions of the law. They said that it was possible to apply the article to the ministry's swimming pools, while it was difficult to apply it to those of hotels, touristic facilities and the al-'Aqabah and the Dead Sea beaches.

They said the law should not include swimming pools at touristic areas since this might affect the tourism industry.

The House then approved the amended 1994 Civil Courts Law after its Judiciary Committee introduced several amendments to it. It commenced its debate of the amended Municipalities law, which was sent back to it by the Senate, which introduced several amendments to it. The House approved some of these amendments but insisted on preserving others as they were passed by it.

Junblatt Welcomes Planned Army Deployment

NC3105105694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] sources have stated that Minister Walid Junblatt has received a new plan from the Army Command on a broader military deployment as a prelude to the return of the evacuees. This plan will be implemented in the mountain area between 9 and 15 June. The Army is estimated at 5,000 to 7,000 Lebanese troops and will be deployed in most of the mountain villages and towns, particularly the villages that the evacuees will return to during the summer. The force will erect fixed and mobile roadblocks at the entrances of the villages, which were the scenes of various problems during the war, to ensure the security of the citizens.

The PSP sources added that Minister Junblatt has welcomed the details of the plan and that he briefed the PSP leadership on the deployment process. The sources noted that Minister Junblatt has praised the role of the Army and of General Lahhud before the popular delegations.

Buwayz on Christopher Tour, al-Dirani Kidnapping

JN3105200794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1727 GMT 31 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by correspondent Randah Habib in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Habib] Mr. Minister, what is Lebanon's stand on the settlement of the Yemeni crisis in light of the proclamation of an independent state in the south, given that Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has stated that most of the Arab countries will recognize this state?

[Buwayz] In principle, we do not believe the time is appropriate to review the map of the region. From this premise, we as the Lebanese Government pause before adopting a final stand on what is taking place in Yemen to give the opportunity for initiatives to settle this problem. Our hope is that the brothers in Yemen realize that the current Arab situation is tragic and can do without further divisions and fragmentations and further infringement on Arab sovereignty through the imposition of international tutelage.

[Habib] How does Lebanon view the solution to the Palestinian presence on its territory following the conclusion of the autonomy agreement between Israel and the PLO, and how many Palestinians reside in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] In principle, there is a consensus in Lebanon among all the parties, communities, and forces to reject any form of resettlement on Lebanese soil. The Lebanese constitution explicitly states its rejection of this possibility. From this premise, Lebanon with its limited area, and sensitive structure absolutely does not believe that it can sustain the burdens of the resettlement of Palestinians on its land. [passage omitted]

[Habib] What about their numbers?

[Buwayz] There are no accurate statistics. Many Palestinians have made statements implying that the Lebanese state is carrying out specific plans, proposals, and contacts. I would like to state here that the Lebanese state has not contacted anyone and has not held discussions with anyone on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and that it is not currently carrying out any action dealing with this Palestinian presence. Their number ranges between 300,000 and 350,000.

[Habib] There is talk about a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Will it include Lebanon and is there a date for holding the next session of bilateral negotiations?

[Buwayz] What is certain is that we do not accept being summoned to any place outside the Lebanese territory. We welcome all those who visit us in Lebanon to discuss the problems of the region. Lebanon is an essential part of the Middle East equation, whether historically, politically, economically, or culturally. We expect that Secretary Christopher will carry out a new tour to prepare for a new round of negotiations. I expect this. With respect to his visiting Lebanon, we have not received, as yet, any information about this topic. [passage omitted]

[Habib] Is there anything new with respect to the Believers Resistance official Mustafa al-Dirani?

[Buwayz] Israel carried out an operation deep inside Lebanese territory. The outcome of this operation was the kidnapping of Mr. Mustafa al-Dirani under the pretext of seeking the release of an Israeli pilot who was arrested in Lebanon in 1986. Any comparison between the two is rejected. Israeli pilot Ron Arad was taken prisoner after he carried out a raid on Lebanon, during military operations and when the Lebanese state was absent. The Lebanese state has no information and does not know anything about this topic. The operation against Mustafa al-Dirani took place on Lebanese territory, without there being any military operations and against a person who was in his house and among his family. We view it as an aggression and as an act of piracy with all the sense of the word. [passage omitted]

Believers Resistance Official on al-Dirani

NC0106084694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 May 94 p 7

[Report on interview with Believers Resistance official 'Ali al-Husayni by 'Imad Marmal; place and date not given]

[Text] The kidnapping of al-Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani, one of the leaders of the Believers Resistance [al-muqawamah al-mu'minah], has focused attention on this group, which broke away from the Amal movement but remained faithful to the Amal charter, maintaining its own interpretation of the charter and establishing close and "special ties" with Hizballah without enrolling in its ranks.

What are the circumstances of the birth of the Believers Resistance, what is its structure, what is its role in the issue of the Israeli pilot, and how has the kidnapping of al-Dirani affected it?

AL-SAFIR posed these questions to Believers Resistance official 'Ali al-Husayni, 40 years old, who learned of the kidnapping of al-Dirani on Radio London on Saturday morning [21 May]. He was shocked by the news, particularly because he met with al-Dirani the day before and urged him to be more careful because there was information that he was being targeted. However, Abu-'Ali [al-Dirani], who was only taking precautionary measures while moving from one place to another, did not increase his guard, believing he would be safe in his home.

The following is the text of the interview with al-Husayni:

[Marmal] How will the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani affect the morale of the Believers Resistance and its role?

[Al-Husayni] Whenever Israel deals a blow to us, the resistance becomes stronger. When Israel assassinated 'Abbas al-Musawi, the Islamic Resistance became stronger and established roots in the people's conscience. After the kidnapping of al-Hajj Mustafa, the Believers Resistance will become stronger. Israel will not be glad for long about this operation; it will suffer pain as we have suffered.

[Marmal] If the authority is directly responsible for what happened, given that it is responsible for the people's security, what about the internal breach of security and has it been identified?

[Al-Husayni] From the information we have gathered, it is clear that this act of piracy would not have succeeded without the help of some agents. We have gathered some information, which tally with the other information gathered by other parties and the Lebanese Army. We are following up on these leads to expose these agents and punish them.

[Marmal] Can you elaborate further on this subject?

[Al-Husayni] The terrain of the area does not permit the Zionist enemy to use it with the help of only pictures and maps. There must be some local people who are familiar with this terrain. We also had information that the enemy had made a miniature of the Qasr Naba village and the hills surrounding it. They may have used this miniature to rehearse for the operation.

[Marmal] Why were precautionary measures not taken in the light of this information?

[Al-Husayni] The humble nature of brother Abu-'Ali al-Dirani, the positive security situation in the area, and the absence of direct party activity there made us rely on the state's protection. A helicopter landing operation of this size would not have succeeded if there was a will by the authorities to confront it.

[Marmal] Did you obtain clarifications or explanations from the military authorities on the way they dealt with the Israeli operation?

[Al-Husayni] The security authorities, as they said, did not do anything because of their weak capabilities. We are not accusing the Lebanese Army, which we respect. We paid in our own blood to preserve its unity. Al-Hajj al-Dirani is one of those who paid a direct price for this. However, I accuse the political leadership, who gave the impression directly or indirectly that the aim of the operation was possibly to smuggle out of the country some of [Samir] Ja'ja's supporters who fled toward the mountains. The alert was stronger in the Jubayl area than in others.

[Marmal] Was al-Dirani involved in the case of Israeli airman Ron Arad?

[Al-Husayni] The Israeli airman was captured by the Amal Movement's Central Security Service, which was headed then by al-Hajj al-Dirani. I do not mean here that the prisoner is held by the movement. I have no idea who was in charge of the prisoner after Abu-'Ali.

[Marmal] It is reported that he was handed over to certain quarters?

[Al-Husayni] This is not true. Such reports are part of an intrigue.

[Marmal] What are your predictions concerning the fate of Arad?

[Al-Husayni] He could either be dead or alive. The entire issue has become a riddle, as [Hizballah Secretary General] Hasan Nasrallah said. Since the Israeli airman is not held by the Believers Resistance, the Islamic Resistance, the Amal Movement, Syria, or Iran he might have been killed during Lebanon's several wars: the war of liberation and the inter-Lebanese wars. At any rate, the Israeli airman was captured while bombarding Lebanese territory. Abu-'Ali was in his house when Arad was captured. You cannot equate al-Dirani with Arad.

[Marmal] Therefore, you believe that al-Dirani will not give new information to the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] Certainly. He does not have any significant information. If we had information we would have used it to swap prisoners. We are people who treat prisoners well.

[Marmal] Are there any contacts with the International Red Cross about al-Dirani's condition?

[Al-Husayni] We have held contacts with official circles, which will contact the Red Cross. It is the primary duty of the Red Cross to visit the detainees.

[Marmal] What about the political and organizational characteristics of the Believers Resistance?

[Al-Husayni] The Believers Resistance is neither an organization nor a political party. It is rather a movement waging jihad. The members and cadres of this resistance were members of the Amal Movement. But as a result of an organizational dispute within the movement, those cadres became members of a Jihad resistance movement in 1988 in implementation of the movement's charter. The Believers Resistance has deep roots, which is evident in the number of its martyrs. We have nothing to do with political parties. We were an opposition movement in Amal but now we are not affiliated with it. We did not establish a new organization because we are not convinced.

[Marmal] What is the nature of your relations with Hizballah, particularly since there is an impression that the Believers Resistance is part of it?

[Al-Husayni] Our policies are parallel in terms of our Jihad and irrefutable enmity toward Israel. We agree with Hizballah because both of us represent links in the world Islamic movement. We also have the same Islamic authority. We also work together to safeguard Lebanon's unity, peace, and coexistence and to establish social justice by eliminating political sectarianism. In other words, we are part of the Hizballah nation, according to the Koranic interpretation. This is what we learned from Imam al-Sadr, because he represented the wise authority, which is a descendant of the prophet's household. My words should not be interpreted to indicate we are a Shiite movement. We are rather a Lebanese movement based on Islamic ideology.

[Marmal] What about relations with Iran?

[Al-Husayni] Iran is a state that champions justice. We appreciate Iran's moral and other kinds of assistance. The resistance, whether it is the faithful or Islamic, is willing to accept assistance from any state that is hostile to Israel.

NNA Correspondent on 'Impending' Israeli Withdrawal

NC3105061594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] According to reports from the areas of Hasbayya and Jazzin, the Israeli occupation forces have started to disseminate information on an impending withdrawal from these two areas, which could be done suddenly sometime within the next two months.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent in al-Nabatiyah has reported that the information coincides with the completion of the road that the occupation forces recently dug between Jisr al-Khardali and Tallat Khazin in the Jazzin area and the creation of an iron gate in Tallat Khazin. The correspondent added that this Israeli step may indicate that a new crossing point will be set up there in lieu of the Kafr Huna-Batir crossing. Other information indicates that the Kafr Tibnit crossing will be removed and that crossing will be restricted to Tallat Khazin after the withdrawal from Jazzin, the correspondent said.

The NNA correspondent pointed out that the construction of the new crossing point coincides with the Israelis' evacuation from their last position on Tallat al-Ahmadiyah in Hasbayya, which overlooks Western al-Biqa', and the handing over of all their positions to the agent militia 20 days ago.

The correspondent cited sources in the area as saying that should this withdrawal be carried out, the town of Jazzin and nearby villages—including 'Aramta, al-'Ayshiyah, al-Qatranah, and al-Surayri—will return to the legitimate authority's control and that the Sidon-Mashgharah road will be reopened via Jazzin.

Jordanian Higher Education Minister Pays Visit

Al-Tall Makes Statement

JN3005062294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 May 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, Jordanian deputy prime minister and higher education minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus via Dar'a this evening. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Tall made a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent in Dar'a. He expressed happiness at this visit, and said: On my visit to fraternal Syria, I would like first to convey to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad greetings from His Majesty King Husayn. In my name and on behalf of the delegation, I also convey to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad profound appreciation, respect, and pride.

Dr. al-Tall added: We are emphasizing a consistent fact, in addition to the pan-Arab ties between both fraternal countries, which are two parts of a whole. The two countries are facing the challenges posed to the Arab nation.

He also lauded the strong cooperation and sisterly relations between both fraternal countries as well as the constant coordination between President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn for pan-Arab interests.

Al-Tall said this visit comes at the invitation of the Syrian higher education minister to further enhance cooperation in various higher education fields between both fraternal countries.

Meets al-Zu'bi, al-Shar'

JN3005140394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received at 1100 today Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and higher education minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salihah Sunqur, minister of higher education, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Dr. al-Tall conveyed Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's greetings to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who also requested the Jordanian official to convey his greetings to Dr. al-Majali.

Talks during the meeting centered on the existing cooperation relations between the two fraternal countries.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received Sa'id al-Tall and his delegation this morning. The Jordanian ambassador in Damascus attended. Talks during the meeting revolved around the situation in the region, as well as the Arab situation, especially current events in fraternal Yemen. The two sides voiced their concern about Yemen's unity and stressed the need to end the bloodshed and infighting as soon as possible.

The two sides also tackled developments in the peace process, as well as the continuation of coordination with Syria and fraternal Lebanon. They then discussed relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Jordan.

Holds Talks With al-Asad

JN0106061294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 1 Jun 94

[Text] Yesterday evening at al-Rawdah Palace, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of higher education.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Salihah Sunqur, minister of higher education, and Ahmad al-'Adayilah, Jordan's ambassador in Damascus.

The conferees discussed bilateral cooperation. Dr. al-Tall expressed satisfaction with the talks he held with Syrian officials.

Al-Shar' on War in Yemen, Talks With Israel

NC3105195594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that his country, like other Arab countries, is upset and hurt at the fighting between the brothers in Yemen.

He said in press statements today that all recent indications pointed to the fact that Yemen was on the brink of a dangerous situation.

He said: We believe that the use of wisdom and intelligence and concern over Yemeni unity should prompt the Yemeni leaders to stop the fighting immediately.

He noted that Syria was hoping the Arab countries would be able to resolve this problem, and urged the Yemeni brothers to preserve their unity.

The Syrian foreign minister said that the issue of fighting in Yemen is a hot issue and that many speakers touched on that matter today during the sessions of the Non-Aligned Movement's ministerial conference. It might also be discussed later during the conference.

He said that the brothers in Yemen, whether in the north or the south, want Syria, along with some other Arab brothers, to provide good offices. He pointed out that there is no Syrian initiative in this regard but Syria is working to stop the fraternal violence in Yemen.

On the resumption of the Middle East peace talks, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, al-Shar' said that before Secretary Christopher returns to the region and we hear the response of the Israeli side to the Syrian ideas, which stressed that the beginnings of a new and serious peace process on the Syrian track depends on full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines, a new and united stand should be reached regarding resumption of negotiations in Washington.

Answering a question on the possibility of Syria accepting an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights over a period of three years, al-Shar' said: We will not talk about these details until after Israel agrees to the principle of full withdrawal.

To a questiion regarding announcements by the Israeli prime minister that Syria is not committed to peace, al-Shar' said: I believe he is talking about Israel and not Syria. Everyone knows that Syria is fully involved in peace. We have been saying this for the past two years and we have affirmed that the absence of progress in the Washington peace process goes back to the Israeli stalling in the negotiations.

CPC Delegation Signs Cooperation Program

JN2705152794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] A concluding meeting was held at the Ba'th Party National Command building this morning between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, and a CPC delegation led by comrade Wei Jianxing, member of the CPC Political Bureau and Central Committee Secretariat and head of the Chinese Federation of Trade Unions. The meeting was attended for the Ba'th Party by comrades Mut'ib Shinan, member of the Party's National Command, and 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, member of the Party's Regional Command and head of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

During the meeting, the two sides signed a cooperation program between the two parties for the next two years. They reviewed the results of the visit, which underscored the two parties' identical views on the most important issues and developments that concern the two parties. They stressed the need to take all necessary measures that will contribute to bolstering friendship between the two parties and peoples and promoting bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two countries.

Comrade al-Ahmar voiced his satisfaction with the outcome of the visit and its contribution to bolstering and developing friendship and cooperation between the two parties and governments in the interest of the Syrian and Chinese people.

The CPC delegation left Damascus for home at noon today at the conclusion of a visit of several days to Syria. The delegation was seen off at the airport by comrades Mut'ib Shinan, member of the Ba'th Party National Command; 'Abdallah Abu-al-Rish, member of the Party Control and Inspection Committee; Mustafa 'Isa, member of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Trade Unions; some National Command members; and Chinese Ambassador in Damascus Li Qingyu. In a pre-departure statement to the Syrian News Agency, SANA, Mr. Wei said China—party, people, and government—take great pride in the deep friendship and sincere cooperation between Syria and China. He wished the Syrian Arab people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He said the Chinese people greatly appreciate and admire the Syrian people's accomplishments under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad for the sake of safeguarding the homeland's independence and sovereignty. Comrade Wei expressed his country's constant and firm support for the Syrian Arab people's just cause, stressing that China believes that the Middle East issue should be solved in a just and comprehensive manner on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and in accordance with the principle of land for peace and restoration of all occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan. He indicated that China objects to the trend of hegemony and the policy of force. He said that peace has not yet prevailed in the world and that protecting world peace and development is still a big issue facing the international community. Comrade Wei praised the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, which are continuously developing in all political, economic, cultural, and other spheres. He said relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPC have been developing satisfactorily since the establishment of bilateral relations.

He concluded his statement by expressing his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception accorded to him and his delegation in Syria, the cradle of ancient civilization and glorious revolutionary traditions.

Khaddam Receives British Parliamentary Delegation

JN3005162694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a British parliamentary delegation led by Mike Watson. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the British charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Discussion dealt with the situation in the region and the peace process developments.

Egyptian Petroleum Minister, Delegation Depart

JN2905061294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] Damascus—Egyptian Petroleum Minister Hamdi al-Banbi and his delegation left Damascus to return to Cairo last night following a visit of several days to Syria. The Egyptian minister held a number of meetings with Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, and senior officials from the ministry and companies affiliated with it. Their talks focused on promoting cooperation between Syria and Egypt in all oil areas.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by *Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, senior ministry officials*, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

Official Cited on Ability To Face U.S. Pressure

NC2305103594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 20 May 94 p 2

[Report by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[Excerpt] Senior officials and government and party circles in Lebanon have again been turning their exclusive attention to the current negotiations with Israel under the auspices of the United States. The failure of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new tour heightened their interest further. Christopher obviously leaned toward the Israeli viewpoint, which is based on the following sequence: normalization, security, and withdrawal. Syria insists on a comprehensive solution and on the implementation of the international resolutions in a way that secures the reverse order: withdrawal, security, normalization.

In this regard, visitors quoted a senior Syrian official as saying that the peace process is still faltering and that the direct U.S. position is now more biased toward Israel. Some White House circles, added the official, are working to disavow the agreement reached between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton in Geneva early this year, and various types of pressure are increasingly being applied to make Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan give in to demands for separate peace deals in which Israel emerges as the stronger party.

The senior Syrian official stressed that Damascus cannot accept the U.S.-Israeli proposals but will not try to obstruct the negotiations. The Arabs should not try to stop this process although it is crippled and running into major trouble, the official said. Syria, he added, is preparing to confront every form of pressure that Israel, together with the United States and some European allies, may apply to force Syria to change its position.

The senior official recalled before his Lebanese visitors a conversation he had with a medium-level U.S. official and political delegations. The foreign delegations asked about Syria's strengths that make it reject the Israeli proposals and resist political pressure. The delegations also asked how Syria could face the possibility of war after the collapse of the Soviet Union and China's failure to emerge as a new superpower. They wondered how Syria could face that possibility when the Arabs are walking away from it and the Palestinians are going it alone in normalizing ties with Israel. The American delegations also cited the deteriorating economic situation in the region in general and in the Gulf in particular and the terrible collapse of the political, popular, and official Arab positions that Syria used to support.

The Syrian official said he told his American interlocutors that war does not make peace and that Israel's traditional power does not conceal its weakness in other ways. He said he reminded the Americans of the Vietnam war. Although the balances of power were in favor of the United States, the Vietnamese people achieved a victory, one that still represents an inferiority complex for the Americans. A more vital example is formed by events in Lebanon in the past decade. Although U.S., European, and Israeli armies occupied most of Lebanon's territory, the popular resistance scored formidable victories.

The senior Syrian official added: With its current economic situation, its reasonable stock of foodstuffs and energy, and its relative self-sufficiency in the area of health, Syria can hold out for years under pressure. The extensive development plans will make Syria even stronger in the next few years—and this is apart from Syria's conventional military power not being as weak as many imagine.

The official stressed that Syria can face a great deal of economic, political, and military pressure and does not find itself compelled to offer new concessions on any level. [passage omitted]

U.S., Russia Urged To 'Pressure' Tel Aviv

JN3105182594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. circles in Washington close to the U.S. State Department have been talking about the possibility of Warren Christopher making a new tour of the Middle East mid-June in an effort to pull the Syrian-Israeli track out of its current stalemate and push the peace process forward. These circles indicate that a wide gap separates the Syrian and Israeli positions, that much effort should be exerted to narrow that gap, that there is no alternative to serious work on the Syrian-Israeli track in view of Syria's key role in the peace process, and that any progress on this track will reflect on the other negotiating tracks.

It has become clear that if the United States wants to push the peace process forward and achieve a just and real solution in the region, it should, in its capacity as the principal sponsor of the peace process, direct its efforts toward Israel. Israel's rulers, however, do not want a just, comprehensive, and stable peace because such a peace will put an end to their expansionist plans and will draw borders for their entity at a time when they want Israel to remain open without definite borders, and to expand.

Hence, they bargain over the occupied Arab territories, stressing the need to subject Palestinians to a prolonged self-rule and to test the Arabs' peaceful intentions by keeping their territories under occupation. The Israeli prime minister yesterday urged Syria to bypass the Washington talks that stemmed from the Madrid conference, pointing out that the distinguished relationship between the United States and Israel prevents U.S. pressure on Tel Aviv's policy.

Syria has always rejected such calls and consider them an escape from the requirements of the peace process and an encroachment on Security Council resolutions, the bases of the Madrid conference, and the principle of land for peace. Secret negotiations not only constitute an exposed maneuver to undermine the U.S. initiative and a just and comprehensive peace formula, but also relieve the United States of its obvious commitment to achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution based on the international legitimacy's resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

The secret Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Oslo and their resulting distorted, lame agreement is best evidence of Israel's intentions and maneuvers. The said agreement has entrenched the Israeli occupation, given Israel a free hand in security and sovereignty affairs, and placed the Palestinians under trusteeship. No noticeable change has occurred in the life of Palestinians, except for big names such as self-rule that has no more power than the previous municipalities. The occupied Palestinian territories have remained under tight military siege.

This is Israel's goal from the secret negotiations. It wants to split Arab ranks, draw each Arab side into a fragmented agreement in isolation of other sides, and blackmail Arab parties in general. The Arabs and the cause of peace will be the losers because lame agreements do not bring the region closer to peace but increase tension and may lead to an explosion. Hence, Syria sticks to the Madrid conference formula, the Washington talks framework, and the Security Council resolutions.

The international community shares this position with Syria because it views it as positive and constructive. No agreement will be worthy if it does not win the support of the region's peoples and lay the groundwork for true peace and a real stability. There is nothing so far to indicate any change in Israel's policy or shift in the position of Rabin's government.

While Syria does not expect any decisive shift from Israel, it expects the United States to adopt a more serious and effective stand twoard the implementation of Security Council resolutions. The special relationship between the United States and Israel, on which the Tel Aviv rulers are wagering, should not block the international community's authority, principles, and laws.

The United States committed itself before the entire world to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. U.S. credibility depends on translating that commitment into a fact on the ground, especially since many countries, as well as the Americans themselves, are posing urgent questions regarding the effectiveness of the U.S. foreign policy.

The United States also knows well that total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied territories is the key to peace in the Middle East, and that without such a total withdrawal, Syria cannot enter into serious talks on peace. Without Syria, the peace process cannot achieve any progress.

Syria has always announced its readiness to bring about a real, honorable peace and has honestly supported every effort in this direction. But such a peace depends on Israel and requires the United States and Russia to exercise decisive pressure. Peace prospects diminish day after day, and the U.S. initiative has been exposed to many shocks and much erosion as a result of Israel's intransigence and procrastination.

Israeli Acts 'Against the Peace Process' Seen

JN2805073894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israeli Attacks," TISHRIN comments on the continued acts of Israeli aggressive against Lebanon. Discussing international indifference toward Israel's piratical act of kidnapping Lebanese citizen Mustafa Dayrani from his home in Lebanon, TISHRIN explains that this indifference has encouraged Israel to persist in its aggressive policy against the population of southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: While the Arabs, including Lebanon, call for a just, honorable peace, Israel insists on lame, phased agreements that will give it a free hand and consolidate its hegemony in the region, contrary to UN Security Council resolutions and UN principles and conventions. The paper adds that Israel is behaving as if it is above international law, selecting from the UN Security Council resolutions only what is useful for its expansionist schemes, usurpation, and settlement.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israel's attacks will not weaken Lebanon's determination to restore its territory. Rather, they will consolidate the Arab parties' conviction that the Tel Aviv rulers reject a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It is the right of Lebanon and the Arabs to escalate resistance to ensure Israel's compliance with the resolutions and principles of the international community and put an end to the aggression it has been continuing for many years.

In a commentary, AL-THAWRAH discusses peace Israeli style. Practically, the paper says, this peace means taming the region and ravishing its countries, people, wealth, and ideologies, turning it into an obedient tool in the hands of Israel.

After reviewing Israel's practices against the peace process, up to and including the act of piracy carried out against a Lebanese citizen and other attacks on southern Lebanon, the paper says this is another image of the peace that Israel wants. This is the only peace that it looks for. It is a peace that gives Israel a free hand in the region, undeterred by any laws. Therefore, it has been pushing peace on the Syrian track toward a dead end because the peace Syria understands is the opposite of this and because Syria rejects any peace that is not just and comprehensive.

AL-THAWRAH explains that despite its serious and sincere desire for peace, and despite its great appreciation for the U.S. role and the Clinton administration's efforts to advance the peace process, Syria believes that the United States should explicitly and publicly point to the party that is obstructing peace and is seeking to impose its own terms, which contradict the bases of the peace process and international resolutions.

At the end of its commentary, AL-THAWRAH calls on the United States to develop its stand and role and to act according to its convictions in light of the stands of the parties to the peace process. It also calls on the United States to make the side obstructing peace comply with peace requirements and implement the relevant UN resolutions.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement With Cyprus Signed

NC3005161294 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 1440 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] Nicosia, May 30 (CNA)—Cyprus and Syria have signed a cultural cooperation programme for a three-year period.

The programme was signed in Damascus by Cyprus Education and Culture Minister Klairi Angelidhou and her Syrian counterpart Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi, during Angelidhou's official visit to Syria.

During her stay in Syria, Angelidhou had separate meetings with the Syrian ministers of culture and higher education, Najah al-'Attar and Salilah Sunqur.

Angelidhou was also received by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, whom she briefed on the latest developments in the Cyprus problem.

She thanked al-Zu'bi for the consistent position of the Syrian Government and of president Hafiz al-Asad on the Cyprus problem.

Al-Zub'i reiterated his country's support for a just solution of the Cyprus issue on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions and stressed that Syria rejected any kind of occupation or intervention of one country in the affairs of another.

The Northern part of the Republic of Cyprus has been under Turkish military occupation since 1974.

The Cypriot minister had also a meeting with the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Antioch Ignatios.

India

Rao Calls For Steps To Increase Trade With U.S.

BK3105162994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has called for specific follow-up action with a time frame to increase bilateral trade with the United States.

Talking to a delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industries which called on him in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that an overall change has taken place in the Indo-U.S. business climate following his recent visit to Washington. He said the Indo-U.S. subcommission on trade should be reactivated to achieve this end. Mr. Rao pointed out that the subcommmission will provide a common forum for business planning, interaction, and progress.

Papers Condemn U.S. Diplomat's Remarks on Missile

'Anti-India Views' Assailed

BK2805132794 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 27 May 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Anti-India Wisner"]

[Text] The views expressed by the designated U.S. envoy to India, Frank Wisner, before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate about India were not answers to satisfy the requirements for his appointment, but are the anti-India views of Wisner. The India visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary for State, Strobe Talbott, and U.S. visit by Prime Minister Narsimha Rao had begun the process of normalizing relations. The job of any envoy is to further the interests of his nation, but it is also his job to try his utmost to strengthen bilateral relations. Wisner has not yet arrived in India, but he has already started showing his fangs. India is a sovereign nation and prudent enough to know what is good for it and what is bad. Wisner is trying to threaten India in a roundabout way regarding the Prithvi short-range missiles deployed by the Army. He is saying that deployment of these missiles would worsen the arms race. In a way, Wisner is representing the U.S. point of view about missiles, but it is also clear that he has highly prejudiced views about India. Only a few days ago, he expressed negative views about India becoming a permanent member of the Security Council. If he wanted, he could have supported India's nomination to the Security Council, arguing that India was the largest democratic country in the world. After all, India had supported China's permanent membership in the Seurity Council. It is not that U.S. diplomacy is always practiced on principles. Obviously, Wisner has orchestrated this anti-India refrain intentionally.

There is tremendous contradiction in Wisner's views. He admits that there is danger to India from China. If that danger is from China's atom bomb, then the same danger would threaten from its carrier missiles. Prithvi is also a short-range missile. India also should develop and deploy the Agni missile. It is unfortunate that launching the Prithvi, which was postponed in view of the U.S. tour by Rao, has been postponed again. India have no fear of the Wisners. Wisner is overlooking the fact that Pakistan not only has Chinese-made M-11 missiles, but F-16 U.S. fighter planes. Wisher favors supplying F-16's to Pakistan. Atom bombs could be dropped by these planes. Hence, is there no danger to India from Pakistan? On what logic is he recommending supply of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan? It is obvious that Wisner is anti-India. The Indian Government shoudl object to his appontment. What would such an envoy with a poisoned tongue do in India? His arrogant statements would put daily dents in the relations which have normalized with great difficulty.

Wisner Said To 'Create Critics'

BK3105133594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 27 May 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Deploying Prithvi"]

[Text] True to promise, US Ambassador-designate Frank Wisner has warned India against deploying the Prithvi missiles despite his lack of knowledge as to whether the weapon is configured to carry a nuclear warhead. The easy inference is that it is neither nuclear capability and a tested delivery system nor the violation of the arbitrary Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the norms of which do not cover the Prithvi, which bothers Washington. What clearly does is India's demonstrable military superiority over Pakistan. All strategic experts have averred that the Prithvi does not really threaten China, for it cannot reach a significant target beyond the buffer territory of Tibet. So it must be concluded that the short-range missile may be deployed only to threaten Pakistan. The warning that Mr Wisner, a Pentagon policy expert, has issued is transparently aimed at assuring Pakistan whose President, Mr Farooq Leghari, is in Washington apparently to work out the details of a Pakistan agreement to cap its nuclear programme. The queer aspect of the episode is that Mr Wisner is consciously using the run-up before taking over as ambassador in New Delhi to create critics rather than friends. He must have the full assurance of the State Department that he would be none the worse for the handicap run.

The US opposition against the deployment of the Prithvi, first articulated by Senator [as published] Lee Hamilton before Mr Narasimha Rao set out for Washington and now by Mr Wisner when the Prime Minister is back in India makes it clear that this short-range missile is at the moment on top of the US agenda for India. This can create complications for Mr Narasimha Rao, who pledged in Parliament that the Prithvi would be user-tested after the few days postponement he ordered not to cause an irritation before his US visit.

The expected date, May 23, has passed off without the test. But the Army, defence scientists and district officials of Balasore in Orissa are all waiting in readiness, with the hope that the exercise will take place before May is out. Mr Rao may go ahead with the trial, because the Americans have not objected to this (the opposition is to the Prithvi's deployment). But suspicions about accommodating America's "friendly persuasions" will continue unless the Government makes a public announcement that it has actually deployed the missiles. The postponement of the Prithvi trial was probably seen by the US as capping the programme. What it perhaps expects now is a roll-back, which is exactly the opposite of the weapon's deployment. The Agni, being still an experiment, is the lesser evil of India's missile programme that the US wishes to curb. The myth of US arm-twisting will not be blasted by presenting an Indian arm intact. If there is need for complete transparency, it is in diplomatic exchanges between New Delhi and Washington. Even whispers would send out eloquent messages in a regime of quiet diplomacy.

Comments Termed 'Interference'

BK3005140294 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 28 May 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Policy of Pressure"]

[Text] India should not react immediately to the statement by U.S. Ambassador-designate to India Frank Wisner about missiles and especially the Prithvi missile program. This is because his statement means that the United States has been interfering in the program and that it does not favor the development of Prithvi by India within the Indian army. The question here is whether the Indian defense program is dependent on the mercy, grace, or whims of the United States or has the Indian Government given the United States the right to interfere directly in the Indian defense program. It is definitely not justified for an individual who has been nominated as the U.S. envoy to India to comment about Prithvi missiles. Frank Wisner may not have even reached Delhi but his interference has already begun. When this gentleman arrives, God only knows what he will do. Of course, this can be gauged easily. It should not be forgotten here that the United States has been sending many such officials to India whose main objective has been to interfere in its internal affairs. India should not tolerate this at any cost.

It is unfortunate that the designated U.S. envoy to India, Frank Wisner, commented on the Indian missile program at a time when it looked as if Indo-U.S. ties were swiftly improving again. Such a statement by a senior U.S. diplomat immediately after Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's successful U.S. tour is astonishing. On the one hand, U.S. President Bill Clinton has openly declared that he did not want to interfere in any way in the defense affairs of India and that it is for the Indian Government to decide what was good or bad for its own defense. On the other hand, the way the man designated to become the U.S. envoy to India has been making comments about India's defense program smacks of a threat. Definitely, Wisner's comments have been made under a "policy of pressure," and the Indian Government must protest against this "policy of pressure."

As far as the missile program is concerned, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has already given his assurances to Parliament. He also reiterated this when he was in the U.S., that there was no U.S. interference in the defense programs of India and that the United States has not adopted any policy of pressure. But the way Frank Wisner has decided to follow the path of the "policy of pressure," even before coming to India, is distressing. After all, both men cannot be right. Either the prime minister is right—that there is no pressure from U.S. regarding the defense programs, especially in regard to Prithvi missiles, or Frank Wisner is, who plainly wants to put pressure on India that it should not deliver the Prithvi, developed by Indian scientists for the Indian army. At the moment, the only the question concerns Prithvi missiles being handed to the army. Yet, the United States has already started displaying a threatening posture. When Agni missiles are deployed, what would the attitude be then? The Agni missiles are unquestionably much more devastating and important than the Prithvi. Only the United States knows what its intentions are, but on the basis of what has appeared after Frank Wisner's remarks, one can safely say that the U.S. has not completely given up its policy of pressuring India.

The criticism of the main opposition parties cannot be termed as unjust in the least. CPIM's [Communist Party of India—Marxist] reaction is quite right, that the United States wants to continue its policy of pressure. Like the CPIM, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has also criticized Frank Wisner's statement. Therefore, it would be justified for India to express its views on Wisner's comments and declare that the Prithvi and Agni missile programs would continue and the decision taken to deploy Prithvi with the Indian army would not be changed in any way.

Monsoon Imposes Deadline on Prithvi Tests

BK3105154094 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 28 May 94 p 1, 12

[Report by unidentified "special correspondent"]

[Text] The military test of the surface-to-surface ballistic missile Prithvi will likely be held in the first week of June. Officials of the Defense Research and Development Organization and senior Army and Air Force officials are camping at Chandipur-on-the-Sea in Orissa for the test. According to reliable Defense Ministry sources, these officials in Chandipur are awaiting a green light from the Prime Minister's Office.

The test was scheduled for 13 May, but postponed in view of the prime minister's U.S. visit. Later, the authorities fixed 23 May as the date, but this was not officially announced. As the Prithvi tests have not been held yet, speculation was rife that test flights were stopped due to U.S. pressure. Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador-designate to India, Frank Wisner, in a statement on 26 May at the Senate confirmation hearing, indirectly warned India against deploying this missile.

Defense Ministry sources say that this round of tests will examine the Prithvi missile from different angles. The tests are expected to be completed by the end of July. After that, Bharat Dynamics will be given the go-ahead to start manufacturing the missile, although Defense Ministry sources are not in a position to state as to when the actual deployment of the missile will take place. During the main tests, scientists of the Defense Research and Development Organization and military experts will study the subsystems of the missile. This will include the command system and warhead capacity.

The defense sources say that the tests must begin before the monsoon reaches the east coast in about two weeks. The defense sources, however, are confident that they will complete this round of tests by July. During the first phase of deployment, the Army will deploy the missiles along the international border [with Pakistan] in Rajasthan and Punjab. The Army has already created a special artillery regiment for the purpose. Special bunkers are being constructed to deploy these missiles in the plains where they will be kept in specific controlled temperature conditions.

During the second phase of deployment, Prithvi will be deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, but the Defense Ministry sources are not stating when this deployment will commence. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan has already deployed 70-km range Hatf-1 and 120-km range Hatf-2 missiles. It has also deployed 300-km range M-11 missiles which have been acquired from China.

India is deploying Prithvi missiles in response to the Pakistani-deployed missiles, but the United States has only indirectly warned India against the deployment of Prithvi missiles. This has led to widespread public interest on the deployment of these missiles. This has become a question of national pride. Almost all opposition parties have demanded that India strengthen its security by deploying these missiles.

Rao Commissions Indigenously Built Submarine

BK2905141694 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has said funds for the indigenization program of the Indian Navy has been increased despite the reduction in the defense budget during the last few years. Mr. Narasimha Rao was speaking at the naval dockyard in Bombay today after commissioning the submarine INS [Indian Naval Ship] Shankul. The submarine has been built by the Mazagaon Docks Limited in collaboration with a German firm. Mr. Rao described the induction of INS Shankul—the second indigenously built submarine—as another landmark in maritime history of the country and its quest for self-reliance. The prime minister said the Indian Navy has been on the path of indigenization since the early 1980s and sustained, hard, and collaborative work has helped India reach the status of a submarine building nation. Mr. Rao said India's naval strength will essentially be for its self-defense and to protect its large offshore production assets—fishing and exploitation of seabed resources—in the exclusive economic zone. He said, we neither wish to control the ocean around us nor deny others their legitimate use or equitable access to the seas.

The chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, accorded the acceptance of INS Shankul into the navy. The Maharashtra governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander, and the state chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, were among those who attended the function.

'Significant Achievement' Lauded

BK2905150694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 May 94

[Commentary by defense analyst Rahul Roy Chowdhury]

[Text] The commissioning of the submarine INS [Indian Naval Ship] Shankul by the prime minister is a significant achievement for both the country and the navy. It demonstrates India's ability to indigenously build a highly complex and sophisticated warship along with the navy's resolve to adequately defend its maritime interests in the Indian Ocean. Both these issues continue to remain critical to Indian security. Shankul is only the second submarine to have been built in India. The first such submarine INS Shalki was commissioned into the Indian Navy just over two years ago. Both these vessels were constructed at the Defense Ministry's Mazagaon shipyard in Bombay. While a German (?sales) firm provided material packages and access to certain technologies, Indian workers carried out the bulk of the construction work on the submarine. This included the welding of the hulls and manufacture of various critical items and components. Through these activities they have been able to gain sufficient experience for the construction of similar vessels in future.

Shankul is a modern and sophisticated submarine which is to be used primarily for antisubmarine and antiship operations in a situation of war. It has a standard displacement of 1,450 tons and is formally classified as a stretched and a heavier version of the German HDW class 209 type of vessel. While its level of (?self-noise) is relatively lower than other submarines of its class, its range of some 8,000 miles is considered to be a record one. Shankul is also well-armed with eight 21-inch Torpedo tubes and mines. In addition, it is equipped with advanced radar and solar systems. Amongst the submarines operated by the Indian Navy, Shankul and Shalki are unique as they possess an integrated (?escutcheon) for the entire crew at times of emergency. With the commissioning of Shankul, the strength of the Indian Navy's submarine force has risen to 18. Besides the two built in India, it comprises submarines acquired from Germany and the erstwhile Soviet Union. The acquisition of additional vessels in the last few years became necessary to replace an older class of submarines and to defend India's extended maritime interests in the Indian Ocean.

Russia, Ukraine To Deliver Ammunition, Supplies

BK3105131994 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] India is expected to receive thousands of defense spare parts and critically required ammunition from Russia and Ukraine within three months. Addressing the naval commanders conference in New Delhi today, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said this was successfully negotiated during the visit of a defense delegation to the countries early this month. He expressed concern at the increasing belligerency and weapons acquisition beyond its requirements by Pakistan. Referring to the low intensity conflict by Pakistan to destabilize India, the minister lauded the efforts of Navy and the Coast Guard in countering seaborne operations of subversive elements. He stressed the need for self-reliance and highlighted the necessity to undertake multi-institutional research to build all types of vessels and sophisticated warships.

Congress-I Spokesman Rules Out Early Elections

BK3005154694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 May 94

[Text] The Congress-I claims that the voter has put stamp of approval on the policies, programs and performance of the party in the just concluded by-elections. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said it is significant that five of the Lok Sabha constituencies, which Congress-I has won, are all rural constituencies and thus prove that rural people and farmers have rejected the opposition propaganda about Dunkel proposals.

Describing by-elections as trend setter, Mr. Gadgil, however ruled out the possibility of early general elections in the country.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saudi Ties, Foreign Debt

LD3105103994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the academic staff and students of Amir Qabir Industrial University today, stressed the need for better utilization of the university's resources to meet the country's industrial requirements. According to a Central News Unit report, the president today opened the new mining engineering and metallurgy department building at the university. [passage omitted]

Later, the president answered questions raised by the students and lecturers. We draw your attention to a report by our correspondent:

Speaking about relations with Saudi Arabia, the president said: We are in favor of cooperation with all Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, but we will not retreat from our rights. The president added: Saudi Arabia has created difficulties and obstacles for its neighbors, including Iraq, and it is not acceptable to us that a bigger country of the region is putting pressure on another country. Nevertheless, we are seeking ways to resolve the disputes between the two countries, but as yet we have not achieved any results.

Commenting on Iran's foreign debts, the president said: Our foreign debt is about $17 billion, $10 billion of which is scheduled to be repaid by $3 billion annually. He added: We have rescheduled repayment of our debts to foreign countries with an interest rate of less than five percent, and we hope that our country's problem will be solved by the year 2000.

Moving on to the readjustment of subsidy payments for essential goods, the president said: We are not planning to implement the plan for readjustment of subsidies without raising wages.

Speaking about the government's new decision on hard currency exchange rates, the president said: This decision was made after a series of experimental programs, and the objective is to create a balance between supply and demand.

Referring to the fact that the government is capable of meeting the country's real needs for hard currency, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that through cooperation with the private sector, the decision to ban the sale of hard currency to importers outside the state banking system would reach the desired objective.

The president denied rumors that Kish Island is to be given [vagozari] to Germany in return for Iran's debt to that country. He said: Iranian capital investment in Germany is more than the debt Iran owes to Germany.

In reply to a question as to whether foreign satellites would halt the export of the revolution, the president said: Our revolution is an ideological revolution corresponding to human nature, and has preserved its place among the world Muslims; this sort of problems will never be capable of undermining the export of our revolution.

The president described the campaign against narcotics in the country as very desirable and said: Even our foes confess to this fact.

Further on President's Remarks

LD3105201994 Tehran IRNA in English 1929 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here today that the government has planned to create a balance between the supply and demand process in the foreign exchange market.

Speaking to a group of students from the Amir Kabir Technical University, he said that all importers should obtain their foreign exchange from the banking network, and hoped that private sector would cooperate with the government on the new plan.

On the elimination of the subsidies, the president said the government tackled half of the problems regarding the subsidies in the First Five Year Plan, and that the issue would be totally settled during the Second Five Year Plan (to begin in 1995).

He said that the wages will rise parallel to the prices increase, and that the government will not eliminate the subsidies without increasing the wages.

On Iran's foreign debts, the president said the government could arrange installments on about 10 billion dollars of the foreign debts, i.e., paying back an annual three billion dollars up to the year 2000. "The debts will be paid back with an interest of less than five percent," he added.

Refuting the rumours on the disposal of the southern Kish Island to Germany in return for the debts, the president said there is nothing in the island to be disposed. "Fortunately Iran's debts to Germany have been rescheduled, and Germany owes Iran more than Iran does. [no ending quote as received]

The president explained that Germany demands nearly 7 billion marks from Iran over the Bushehr Power Plant, while, it should pay compensations up to 7 billion to 8 billion dollars to Iran for leaving the project incomplete.

The case has been presented to the court, "and if the court is fair, it will vote in favour of Iran, and if Germany completes the project, 2,400 megawatt of electricity will be generated into the nationwide power network which is very valuable for the country."

On relations with the Saudi Arabia, he said there are some problems regarding the relations with Saudi Arabia including the hajj ceremonies.

At the same time, he said, Saudi Arabia makes troubles for its neighbours, namely Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Yemen. "Saudi pressures on the Iraqi people, its relations with the U.S. and some problems regarding the oil market are among other issues."

"We will not step back from our principles for the settlement of these problems" he stressed.

Asked about the satellite dishes, he said the satellite dishes do not contradict export of the cultural revolution. However, the president said the majlis (parliament) is working on a plan on banning the use of satellite dishes.

Cabinet, Majles Hold Session; President Comments

NC0106095494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] During the joint cabinet-Majles session yesterday afternoon, the need for cooperation between the executive and legislative branches was emphasized. The Central News Unit reports that during this joint session—which was attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, cabinet members, Majles deputies, and the vice presidents—economic problems, the government's economic policies, and the second plan for the country's economic, social, and cultural development were discussed.

At the beginning of the session, Nateq-Nuri said that such sessions speed up the country's development and thanked the cabinet members for their presence in the Majles. Then 10 Majles deputies stated their views on the country's economic, cultural, and social problems.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then took the podium and spoke about the role and position of the Majles in advancing the affairs of society. He said: With coordination among the Majles, the government, and the judiciary any problem can be tackled and the system's plans and policies will succeed. Referring to the government's plans and programs to fight high prices and profiteering, the president stated: To be successful in this, cooperation with the Majles is needed. He added: We are now in the phase of controlling the market. The government is fully monitoring all affairs and applies the necessary policies in each phase.

President Hashemi-Rafasanjani expressed hopes that the new policies on controlling the foreign exchange rate will continue with the support of the Majles until the interests of all the people are ensured.

Referring to the Second Five-Year Plan and to the specialized study of the plan by the Majles deputies, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced the government's readiness to implement the priorities listed in the plan.

Majles Presidium Officials Elected

LD3105105094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 94

[Excerpt] Toward the implementation of Articles 27 and 28 of the Majles' internal regulations, the third annual elections for the Majles Presidium during the current fourth term of the Majles were held today.

According to our correspondent, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri was reelected as the Majles speaker, receiving 193 votes. Hasan Rowhani and Hoseyn Hashemian were also reelected as deputy speakers, with 164 votes and 122 votes respectively. Habibollah Askarowladi-Mosalman, Gholam Abbas Za'eri, and Seyyed Reza Taqavi were elected as commissioners [karpardaz] in charge of supplies and administration.

According to the election results, Hoseyn Sobhaninia; Mohsen Yahyavi; Mohammad Reza Bahonar; Mohammad Karim Shahrzad; Javad Angaji; and Akramis [name as heard] were elected as secretaries of the Majles Presidium. [passage omitted]

British Diplomat Declared Persona Non Grata

NC0106073194 Paris AFP in English 0621 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 1 (AFP)—Iran has declared a diplomat at the British Embassy here "persona non grata" and asked London to recall him, SALAM newspaper said here Wednesday [1 June].

The paper did not give the name of the diplomat but said he was the embassy's number two, which would mean First Secretary Amish Cowell [name as received]. It did not say when the decision was taken or why, but added that the move had prompted the British Government to order the Iranian charge d'affaires in London to leave.

The British charge d'affaires Jeffrey James contacted by AFP refused to comment.

Britain's GUARDIAN newspaper reported on Saturday that London had secretly ordered out a high-ranking Iranian diplomat following reports that Iranian intelligence had been in contact with the banned Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Daily Suggests Reconsidering Ties

LD0106083294 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday [1 June] recommended the Iranian authorities to reconsider Tehran's relations with London and take a more calculated and deliberate stance vis-a-vis Britain.

Criticizing the recent British charges against Iran including the alleged Tehran's support for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the expelling of Iranian charge d'affaires from Britain, 'JOMHURI-E ESLAMI' wrote in a commentary that the British officials have launched an "extensive propaganda campaign against the Islamic Repulic of Iran with an aim to satisfy American statesmen."

The article referred to the forthcoming visit to Britain of the U.S. President Bill Clinton, scheduled next Sunday, and said that the British mass media, by resorting to fabricated allegations, once again are trying to accuse Iran of having supported the IRA.

The British officials have created a smokey screen whenever they had failed in their foreign policy, said the article adding that the present propaganda ploy against Tehran comes in the aftermath of the last month disclosure of Britain's eavesdropping at the Iranian Embassy in London.

Two Iraqi Intelligence Officers Arrested

LD0106114394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] On the basis of a circular issued by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, anyone trying to smuggle foreign currency out of the country will be identified and handed over to the judicial authorities for punishment.

During a news conference today, Intelligence Minister 'Ali Akbar Fallahian said: Since implementation of the new policy on foreign currency, eight gangs involved in the illegal purchase, accumulation, and smuggling of hard currency abroad have been arrested and handed over to the judicial officials.

Referring to Iraqi provocations to create terror inside Iran, he said: During the past four months, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, in pursuit of its particular objectives, has exported some sabotage gangs and has resorted to planting bombs in Iran, in particular. However, thanks to efforts of the intelligence forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, two high-ranking Iraqi intelligence officers have been arrested inside our country. He added: These two intelligence officers, named Ra'd Mustafa Fattah and Arkan 'Abd al-Amir 'Ali, have confessed to their mission, including the import of explosives to Iran.

The intelligence minister pointed out: Four Iranians who have been cooperating with the Iraqi intelligence officers have been arrested and have confessed that they were involved in intelligence work.

Stressing that the Iraqi regime intends to depict our country as insecure by detonating bombs in Iran, Mr. Fallahian went on: During the past four months, 22 bombs have been imported into the country by Iraqi elements. In addition to the arrest of the above people, 14 bombs have been discovered.

About the latest investigations on the discovery of a microphone in our country's London Embassy, the intelligence minister said: The dimensions of this espionage affair are not limited to the discovery of a microphone alone, and we have not divulged all of the issues yet. A country's embassy is regarded as its territory in accordance with international regulations, and they have violated our sovereignty while the British press unanimously presents the issue as a normal occurrence.

Another issue mentioned by the intelligence minister was the return of the Iranians living abroad. He said: Iranians living abroad can take advantage of the facilities we have provided for them.

About the plot to assassinate the President on 1 February 1994, marking the anniversary of Khomeyni's return to Iran, Intelligence Minister Fallahian said: Investigations on this matter are still continuing.

Velayati Views Cooperation With Pakistan

LD0106063894 Tehran IRNA in English 0445 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, June 1, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, here for the meeting of non-aligned foreign ministers, discussed Tehran-Islamabad cooperation in a visit with his Pakistani counterpart Tuesday [31 May].

During the meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister asked for Iran's help to put an end to the civil war in Afghanistan and settle the Kashmiri dispute.

Velayati in response underlined Iran's foreign policy of expanding friendly ties and cooperation with different countries of the world specially with its neighbors.

He also noted that the Iranian Government has currently employed all its potentials to settle the existing disputes in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Velayati also met with foreign affairs secretary of the Philippines Raul Manglapus, who said that strong presence of Iran as a stable country in the region will help strengthen world peace and stability.

The Iranian foreign minister who was invited to pay a visit to Manila said that the Islamic Republic of Iran attached special importance to its relations with southeast Asian states and the central Asian republics.

Iran has a historical cultural ties with Muslims in central Asia and has taken effective steps to help the republics to upgrade relations with other countries, said Velayati. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Bhutto Blames Sharif for Economy, Predicts Tough Budget

BK2805153994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 May 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said the opposition should fulfill its constitutional obligation for which they have been elected. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, she ruled out the possibility of resignation by the opposition, saying they are not going to do so as it is an empty threat. The prime minister said if the members of the opposition resign, under the constitution, by-elections will be held for the vacant seats. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said most of the 72 members of the opposition do not believe in the agitational politics of the leader of the opposition. The prime minister said the people have elected us to end price hike and unemployment. She said the government has started various projects for the uplift of the people and to bring about social revolution in the country. She held the former prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, responsible for the economic crisis facing the country. She said Mr. Nawaz Sharif set a record in obtaining foreign loan.

The prime minister said this year's budget will be tough because of the negative economic policies pursued by the previous government. She said the present government, instead of providing ad hoc solutions to the problems confronting the country, is making all-out efforts to ensure a brighter economic future by finding permanent solutions. The government will have to levy taxes in order to bring down the deficit, she added. She said the budget has to be tough because of four factors inherited by the government. There was no increase in the salary of employees during the tenure of the previous regime. Hence this government has to do so which will result into an extra burden on the national exchequer.

The Nawaz government, she added, had taken hefty loans which put additional burden to the tune of 15 billion rupees on the national exchequer. PPP's [Pakistan People's Party's] last government, she said, had brought the deficit to 6 percent which went up to 8 percent during Mr. Nawaz Sharif's regime. There was no work on the Hab power project during the Nawaz regime which resulted into acute shortage of electricity. Instead, a Yellow Cab Scheme was launched which gave taxis to 60,000 people. The national economy would be strong only when there would be a balance between the income and expenses which is not there now.

Bhutto Lauds Opposition for Ending Assembly Boycott

BK3005073794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The budget session of the National Assembly began at the Parliament House in Islamabad today. The speaker, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, is chairing the session. The opposition, ending their boycott of the National Assembly, participated in the proceedings of the house today. Speaking during question hour, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said strict action will be taken against those responsible for the fire incident in the parliament building. She said her government believes in the rule of law and nobody is above the law. Committees and commissions were formed in the past, but no action was taken. The prime minister said the present government has launched a moral crusade and nobody will be spared.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has welcomed the opposition's decision to end the boycott of the National Assembly and described it as a positive step.

Talking to newsmen at the Parliament House in Islamabad this afternoon, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she had advised the opposition two days earlier to end their boycott and fulfill their constitutional responsibilities as elected representatives. She said she would also respond positively and invite the opposition leader and leaders of other political parties for discussions on economic issues over a cup of tea.

Replying to a question regarding her challenge to the opposition for submitting their resignations, the prime minister said she was confident that they would not submit their resignations to the speaker of the National Assembly. It was her assessment as a political leader. She said after last year's just and fair election, the politics of resignations has come to an end. Those who are elected do not resign.

To a question about the Sindh situation, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the situation in the rural and urban areas of the province is serious for internal and external reasons. External forces have trained youths in the interior of Sindh as well in the cities for the purpose of terrorist activities and have provided them arms. In the past, only administrative steps had been taken to face the situation. We have decided to tackle the issue politically. She said her government, which is the people's government, is going to take long-term and short-term steps to resolve the problems faced by the people of Karachi. These include provision of drinking water, more electricity, transport and hospitals.

Council Approves Five-Year Development Plan

BK3105154594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 May 94

[Text] The National Economic Council, which met in Islamabad today, approved the eighth five-year plan to the tune of 1,701 billion rupees. Presided over by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the meeting was also attended by the chief ministers of the four provinces.

The eighth five-year plan is 48 percent larger than the seventh five-year plan. The plan envisages 7 percent growth rate of GDP and 60 percent contribution from the private sector. The unemployment rate will be reduced from 8 percent to 6 percent by the year 1998 by creating 6.2 million new jobs during the five-year plan.

The meeting also approved the annual development plan for the year 1994-95 and the public sector development program. The meeting stressed the need of legislative control over the budgetary deficit so that the executive should have to go back to the legislature on every spending over and above the budgetary allocation.

Performance of Defense Production Division Reviewed

BK3005071994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 May 94

[Text] The National Assembly's standing committee on defense at a briefing in Islamabad today was informed that the defense production division is striving hard to achieve the target set by the government for greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency in defense production. The briefing was attended among others by the chairman of the standing committee for defense, Rao Sikander Iqbal, member - Mir Altaf Ali Bhayo, Rana Mumtaz Ahmad Noon, and Sardar Mansur Ahmad Khan Leghari. The secretary, defense production division, apprised the committee about the production of defense hardware, stores, and equipment for all the three services. The committee was informed that Pakistan would manufacture K-8 jet trainer aircraft in collaboration with China. The committee was also informed that Pakistan has been exporting products of defense production establishments to more than 35 countries.

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